

## Palestinians form election panels

JERICO (R) — Six Palestinian groups, opponents and supporters of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, have agreed to form a temporary committee to prepare for local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a PLO official said on Friday. Saeb Erekat, in charge of local government for the Palestinian self-rule authority, said all the members of the committee — including the Hamas movement — would take part in elections for local associations and municipalities. He told Reuters the committee had a six-month mandate and that the elections would pave the way for elections of a Palestinian legislative council in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "The date for elections for a 100-member Palestinian council is set for Dec. 15, and we have handed Israelis five papers dealing with elections," Dr. Erekat said. Dr. Erekat said Palestinians had proposed the PLO and Israel start parallel rather than sequential talks on election modalities, Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank and expanding Palestinian authority in the area.

Volume 18 Number 5698

## Lebanon said seeking separate peace talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Lebanon is ready to negotiate an end to hostilities with Israel and full normalisation along the lines of the last month's Jordan-Israel agreement, an Israeli daily reported Friday. Lebanon is Israel's only active war front, and the arrangement, which falls short of a full peace treaty, would leave Syria as Israel's sole hostile neighbour. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, said he had not heard of the meetings with the Lebanese. Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said the report was "baseless."

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily quoted unidentified senior government sources as saying the Lebanese expressed interest in a nine-month-old Israeli offer, by which the Lebanese army would deploy along the southern border with Israel, disarm guerrilla groups and guarantee the safety of Israeli-allied militia-men. In exchange, Israel would pull out its troops from a 15-kilometre-long buffer zone it occupies in South Lebanon within six months. Yedioth said Lebanese officials met recently with Israeli officials in Europe and said they liked the plan, because it dropped earlier Israeli demands for a full diplomatic peace. Signing a complete peace agreement would require a peace treaty with Syria, they said. Lebanon, which hosts 40,000 Syrian troops cannot negotiate a separate peace without its powerful neighbour. The Jordanian model includes joint commercial ventures and open borders, although it also stops short of full peace. "The Lebanese government wants to embark on negotiations with Israel along the lines of Jordan to reach peace quickly," Yedioth said, without giving any sources. "Lebanon proposes that the two countries negotiate an Israeli withdrawal from the south of its territory and a complete normalisation of relations," the paper added. "But the signing of a peace accord will be delayed until the signing of a peace treaty with Syria," it said. The motivation behind Lebanon's new approach was its economic problems and efforts to renew links with the West, especially the United States which is the main sponsor of the Middle East peace process, Yedioth said. "The Syrians would close their eyes to the Lebanese initiative," it said, adding that the Lebanese wanted only a Syrian-Israeli peace deal could contain Hizbollah which is responsible for most anti-Israeli attacks in South Lebanon.

## Israeli undercover soldiers wound 3 in Hebron clash

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli undercover soldiers wounded three Palestinians in a clash on Friday in Hebron, where a Jewish settler massacred more than 30 Palestinians at a mosque in February, the army and Palestinian sources said. More than 400 Palestinians began throwing stones at Israeli undercover units discovered in and near the market in central Hebron, witnesses said. The soldiers opened fire as they fled the stone-throwers, wounding two Palestinians moderately. Six Palestinians were arrested, the sources said. An Israeli army spokeswoman said three Palestinians were lightly wounded in the clashes, and three others were arrested for investigation. Hebron has been tense since the February massacre. Both sides protest at the Israeli closure of the mosque site, the site of the Biblical patriarchs holy to Jews and Muslims.

## Bnai Brith gets new president

CHICAGO (AP) — B'nai Brith, the world's largest and oldest Jewish organisation, has elected Tommy Baer, a lawyer, its next president. Mr. Baer, a former assistant U.S. attorney, defeated Dr. Daniel Thurm of Washington, D.C., in balloting by members. The group has 500,000 members and affiliates in 51 countries.

## 23 Kurd rebels, 11 soldiers dead

IMARA (AFP) — Army troops through southeastern Turkey have left 23 Kurdish rebels and 11 soldiers dead in the past 24 hours, officials said Friday. The operations are being conducted against Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas in the Hakari, Bingol and Simak regions, according to a statement from authorities in Diyarbakir, who coordinate the fight against the 10-year-old insurgency. The casualties bring to nearly 200 the number of people killed in fighting over the past fortnight in the region which borders Syria, Iraq and Iran.

## Somali factions step up talks

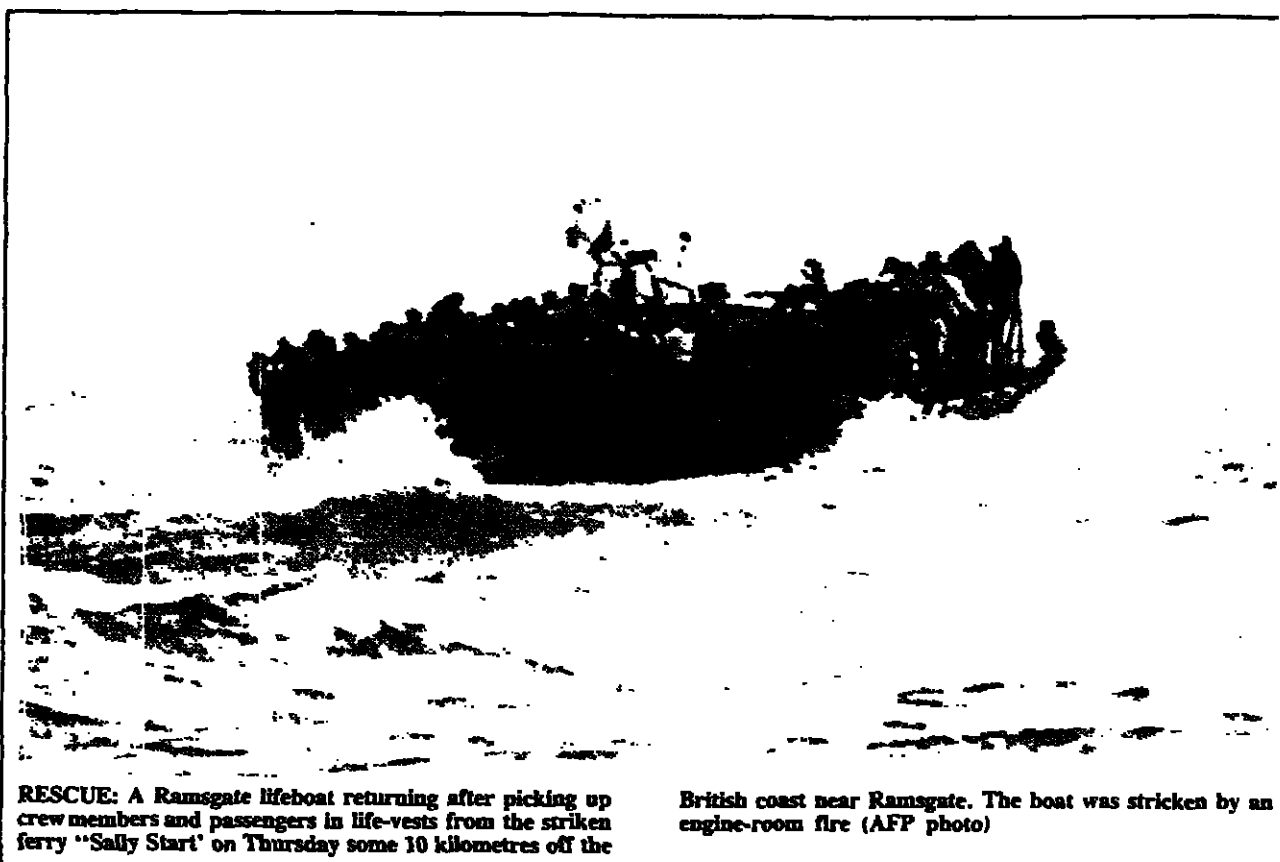
NAIROBI (AFP) — Somali factions are pressing ahead with talks aimed at reaching a political settlement, officials said Friday, amid signs that U.N. troops could pull out of the country. "There are active discussions going on in Djibouti, Addis Ababa and Nairobi," said U.N. Representative Huntley Anderson here.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

AMMAN SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1994, RABI' ALAWAL 20, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils



RESCUE: A Ramsgate lifeboat returning after picking up crew members and passengers in life-vents from the stricken ferry "Sally Start" on Thursday some 10 kilometres off the British coast near Ramsgate. The boat was stricken by an engine-room fire (AFP photo)

## Blockade of Aqaba is over

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first interception-free vessel arrived at Aqaba late Thursday carrying steel for the Jordanian market after American-led warships moved away from the Tiran Straits and independent surveyors took up position at the port, shipping officials said Friday. "The naval blockade of Aqaba is over," said Tawfiq Kassar, chairman of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA), referring to the four-year-old de facto siege of Jordan's only port, one of the key inlets for Iraqi imports. The first ship to arrive was the Aquilla carrying 7,300 tonnes of steel for a local importer, Mr. Kassar said. Two other ships carrying Australian sheep were expected to arrive late Friday. It was not immediately clear whether the American warships patrolling the Red Sea to enforce the international sanctions against Iraq had disappeared from the scene, but Pentagon officials have said that the replacement of offshore inspections with the land-based verification regime by Lloyd's Register of Shipping was "transitional" for one month. They said the U.S. would review the Lloyd's procedures after one month before withdrawing its warships from the area although patrolling of the Red Sea as part of American "security arrangements" in the region would continue. In any case, observers noted that the presence of American warships outside Jordan's territorial waters was of no concern to the Kingdom as long as they did not interfere with free navigation into and out of Aqaba.

At the United Nations meanwhile, Jordan, the U.N. and Lloyd's Register signed two agreements. The first agreement covered the setting up of an escrow account in which Jordan would pay fees collected from importers and exporters to pay for the Lloyd's presence at Aqaba. The U.N. will control the account and make the payment to Lloyd's Register. The second agreement was a framework for the first agreement and the U.N. approach to an accord signed by Jordan and Lloyd's Register last month paving the way for the land-based verification regime.

The Kingdom's permanent delegate to the United Nations, Adnan Abu Odeh, signed the accords with the U.N., the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. Meanwhile, shipping sources at Aqaba described the Lloyd's observation of cargo at the port as strict and tough. "They go through the cargo with a toothcomb," said one source. In comments to the press, Ports Corporation Director-General Dureid Mahasneh described the new arrangement at Aqaba as an achievement and breakthrough for Jordanian diplomacy.

Mr. Mahasneh also said that the land-based verifications would be more precise and give Jordan better control of the situation under the supervision of Lloyd's Register. Mr. Kassar said Lloyd's Register surveyors had arrived at the port early this month and had been conducting "practice runs" of the verification procedures. The eight-member Lloyd's Register team work in close coordination with the Jordanian ports and customs authorities and observe all incoming and outgoing cargo as part of Jordanian regulations and make its reports to the U.N. Sanctions Committee. This procedure applies to imports for the Jordanian market.

Imports for Iraq would be treated differently. All Iraq-bound cargo would be unloaded at a separate warehouse and all items except food and medicine would be cleared out only if they have prior approval from the Sanctions Committee. In another development, Issam Kassar, the Aqaba representative of the Shipping Agents Association, said Jeddah port authorities had cleared 56 of nearly 500 containers for transshipments to Aqaba. The containers were unloaded by ships at the Saudi Red Sea port for transshipment, but were stuck there after Jeddah port authorities decided to inspect the cargo themselves. Although the self-assumed Saudi inspections were believed to have been over — with little finding of any violations of the sanctions — unclear directives by top Saudi officials at the port have led to the containers being stuck at Jeddah.

## Peres rejects Russian role in Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Friday rejected Russia's appeal to play a role in negotiations with the Palestinians over the future status of Jerusalem. Russia's Middle East peace envoy Viktor Posovalyuk made the demand in meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He argued that Russia should play a role in negotiations over Jerusalem, scheduled to start in 1996, because there was Russian Church property in the city, and because Russia has the largest population of followers of the Eastern Orthodox Church. "Israel won't place Jerusalem on the international negotiating table," Mr. Peres replied, in remarks carried on Israeli radio. "Jerusalem is absolutely closed... it is between us and the Palestinians."

Israel claims Jerusalem as its capital while Palestinians want the eastern half as their capital. The Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord calls for negotiations over the issue to begin by 1996. Mr. Posovalyuk arrived in Israel after weeklong travels to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. He reported a standstill in efforts to revive peace talks between Israel and Syria. Israel Radio said he recommended dropping U.S. mediation of peace talks with Syria and attempting a direct route.

Mr. Posovalyuk, who was in Damascus earlier this week, told reporters: "We will use our good relations with Damascus to influence the Syrian side, as we will use our good relations with Israel in order to improve the general atmosphere in the peace process."

On Jerusalem, Israel said it would listen to any religious concerns Russia might raise but the issue was closed from a political viewpoint. "We have all rights in our opinion to take part in all the efforts, when the time comes, in all the efforts related to Jerusalem, the holy city," Mr. Posovalyuk said in remarks broadcast by Israel Radio.

"Russia possesses the biggest orthodox Christian community in the world," he said. "We have a considerable, very large, Muslim community in Russia, and we have a historic tradition with the Holy Land."

"We are listening and will continue to listen to the religious needs or expectations (of the Russians)," Mr. Peres told reporters. Mr. Posovalyuk also met Prime Minister Rabin on Friday and PLO leader Yasser Arafat the previous day in autonomous Gaza.

## Prominent lawyers barred from U.S. trial

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge has disqualified civil rights lawyers William Kunstler and Ron Kuby from representing men accused of conspiring to bomb New York City landmarks, saying they faced potential conflicts of interest. U.S. District Judge Michael Mukasey, whose ruling likely will force a delay in the scheduled Sept. 19 trial, noted that the lawyers had represented four defendants and several other people connected to the case, relationships that posed insurmountable problems. He said they also were potential unsworn witnesses in the case, in part because of public statements they made out of a "perceived need to correct a hostile public view of blameless clients." In a statement, the lawyers said the judge had "bowled to government pressure. Increasingly, the government has attacked attorneys who are perceived as being too zealous in defence of their clients or too critical of the government's practices." Among the stream of written arguments, letters and motions the two lawyers had filed was one in which they demanded that Mr. Mukasey step down because of sympathies to Israel. The judge refused.

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## Iran: U.S. and Israel 'disgraced' over blast

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran, buoyed by Argentine dropping accusations against four Iranian officials over the bombing of a Jewish centre, slammed Washington, Israel and the Argentine judge of the case on Friday. "The Argentine explosion was a test case which disgraced the United States and Israel in their approach towards the Islamic Republic of Iran," President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said. "The enemies of Islam are deluding themselves if they believe they can bring us to our knees through political media and economic pressures," spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a speech to mark the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad. "Efforts by Iran's enemies to isolate it are destined to fail and are a fatal mistake," he said. U.S. President Bill Clinton said Wednesday that Iran was at the top of a list of states supporting "terrorism" and called on U.S. allies to help convince Tehran that its behaviour would not be tolerated (see page 2).

Iran, the United States and Argentina accused Iran of involvement in the car-bomb attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, which left nearly 100 people dead, 10 missing and 250 injured. Argentine justice officials named seven Iranian diplomats in a report into the July 18 attack, and an international arrest warrant has been issued against four of those named. But Iran denied the allegations and called Thursday for compensation from Argentina, after the supreme court in Buenos Aires said there was not sufficient evidence for it to hear the case. Iran said the Iranians named were not in Argentina when the attack took place.

(Continued on page 6)

## Dr. K.S. EL SHUNNAR

Dr. El Shunnar, Consultant neurosurgeon in Plymouth, England is in Amman for a short visit. He will be available to see a limited number of patients during this week. Please call Tel. 644100 between 8-11 a.m. for an appointment. Welcome to Jordan

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## U.N. panel finds Israel not living up to obligations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A United Nations committee has found that Israel has not fulfilled its obligations to protect the life and security of Palestinians living under its rule despite its status as a signatory to related international conventions.

The U.N. Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination meeting in Geneva Aug. 1-19, noted that Israel is a signatory to the International Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and as such is obliged to respect the convention's provisions with regard to "everyone falling under Israel's jurisdiction, including the Palestinians living in the occupied territories."

"Israel was thus obliged to fully protect the life and security of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories," said the committee in a final statement, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times by the U.N. Information Service.

The committee "regretted that Israel had not submitted the urgent report requested in March and requested the government to expedite its... periodical reports" which were due in 1991 and 1992.

The committee "regarded Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as not only illegal but obstacles to peace and to the enjoyment of human rights by the whole population of the region."

Also reviewed by the committee were the situations in Egypt and Sudan in the Middle East as well as the rights of the aboriginal peoples in Canada and Australia, rights of foreigners in Iceland, "racist and xenophobic" acts in Luxembourg, and "increased racism in Spain."

On Egypt, the committee said it welcomed oral explanations provided by that country's representatives as to the Cairo government's adherence to the international convention on racism, but it "requested further information on the demographic composition of the population and on the defini-

tion of racial discrimination" as stipulated in the convention.

The committee expressed "concern about terrorist attacks," some of which it said could be "of a xenophobic nature, and their consequences on the Cairo government."

That was a reference to the wave of attacks on foreign tourists. By definition, the committee is also concerned about attacks on Coptic Christians by Egyptian Muslim extremists since such actions are seen as racial discrimination.

The committee called on the government of Sudan to adopt measures aimed at "building confidence between the Arab and non-Arab communities and expressed its support for its efforts to end the continuing conflict with the aim of restoring the rule of law and respect for human rights."

That was a reference to complaints by southern Sudanese of "discrimination" by the mainly Muslim Arab north against the mostly African Christian south. Such "discrimination" is cited by the southerners as the main reason for their taking up arms against the Khartoum government in the decades-old civil strife in the country.

The committee welcomed Khartoum's characterisation of Sudanese society as multi-racial, multi-religious and multicultural and for the prominence of the rule of law in Sudan. "While taking note that the Sudan had received many refugees from other countries, the committee expressed its deep concern over the large number of Sudanese who had become homeless as a result of the continuing conflict and who remained either internally displaced or as refugees living outside the country," it said.

In examining the report of Canada, the committee expressed its satisfaction at the measures taken to improve the situation of aboriginal peoples. However, it expressed concern at the slow pace with which negotiations had been undertaken to further

define aboriginal rights to land and resources in many parts of the country and called for them to be speeded up. Suggestions that this group was more affected by social problems such as alcoholism, drug abuse, suicide and a high rate of incarceration were also matters of concern. The fact that the federal government could not compel provincial and territorial governments to align their human rights laws with the requirements of the convention was also worrying.

The committee recommended that legal provisions at those levels be harmonised. In addition, because the Employment Equity Act covered only 10 per cent of the population and thus did not fully guarantee equal employment opportunities for aboriginal peoples, they recommended the act be expanded. Measures should also be undertaken to ban racist organisations and to protect the rights of immigrants, particularly those of African or Asian origin, the committee said.

On Iceland, the committee welcomed efforts made to harmonise national legislation with provisions of the convention.

Notwithstanding, it recommended that Iceland incorporate the convention into national law so that it could be directly applied in the courts. Too little attention was paid, they said, to foreigners and minorities in the legal system, and concern was expressed that no specific legislation existed on racial discrimination.

On Luxembourg, experts welcomed the recent information programmes to inform immigrants of their rights and the government's decision to involve non-governmental organisations in the dissemination of information against intolerance, racism and xenophobia.

It noted with concern that racist and xenophobic acts, though few in number, had been committed and "that the state party had not yet taken sufficient measures to

(Continued on page 6)



**RUSSIAN-PALESTINIAN TALKS:** Mr. Posavlyuk met with Israeli leaders on Friday but his call for a Russian role in determining the future of Jerusalem was turned down by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (see page three) and Russian role in the region. (AFP photo)

## Oman arrests fundamentalists

BAHRAIN (AP) — Security forces in Oman have smashed a militant Muslim fundamentalist group and arrested some 200 people, including government officials and military men, diplomatic sources reported Thursday.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the detainees included two undersecretaries and a large number of army officers with at least the rank of colonel. Some police officers also were arrested.

The group was apprehended about six weeks ago, the diplomats said.

It was not clear why the authorities in Oman, long considered on the most politically stable countries in the region, have not officially disclosed the arrests.

But the diplomats said that an official investigation is underway in Muscat, the capital, primarily to determine whether the group had links with Muslim extremists in other countries.

The diplomats said that

Egypt's intelligence service was instrumental in uncovering the fundamentalist plot, but did not elaborate.

No other details were immediately available, and government officials could not be reached for comment.

The diplomats said that Omani authorities are indicating that the militants were not planning to seize power in the sultanate that lies at the southern end of the Gulf, but were seeking to stir anti-government agitation.

Anti-government literature was found on the men, they said.

Oman, a oil-producing country of two million, has been ruled by Sultan Qaboos since he took power from his father, Sultan Said Ben Taimur, July 23, 1970.

The old sultan, who had ruled from 1932, was a traditionalist who had kept Oman in the dark ages.

Despite the discovery of oil in 1964, he banned schools, radios, music, dancing, spectacles and even trousers and books in an attempt to

keep the 20th century at bay. Under the outward-looking, British-educated Qaboos, Oman was catapulted into the modern age and has prospered under his rule.

Oman has largely evaded the upheavals of Islamic fundamentalism of the last 15 years.

The royal family and most of the sultan's subjects belong to the little-known Abazi sect of Islam.

Iran, which shares control with Oman of the strategic Strait of Hormuz that forms the gateway to the Gulf, is dominated by the breakaway Shiite sect.

The Abazis flourished under an Omani preacher, Imam Jaber Ben Zeid, who lived for some time in Iraq. The Abazi sect has followers in Iraq as well as Algeria and Tunisia.

Abazi differences with the Sunnis are slight. The Wahabis, the puritanical Sunni Muslims of neighbouring Saudi Arabia, look on them as unorthodox.

## Japan gives \$10m food aid to Palestinians

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan is donating \$10 million in food aid to the Palestinians as part of the Tokyo government's annual contribution to the U.N. agency that offers services and help the Palestinian refugees, the Japanese embassy here said Thursday.

A press release from the embassy said an agreement was signed in Vienna by Kunisada Kume, Japan's ambassador to international organisations in Vienna, and Ilter Turkmen, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA), which is based in the Austrian capital.

The aid, which will be used to buy flour to be distributed among Palestinian refugees, takes Japan's contribution to UNRWA to more than \$110 million since 1970.

"Japan has so far extended a number of financial and technical cooperation through U.N. organisations, including the girls' primary school in Beqaa camp and special training courses for Palestinian engineers," the press release said.

The Japanese government recently signed an agreement with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to help finance the training of Palestinian electrical engineers at the authority's centre outside Amman.

The latest aid of \$10 million is not part of the \$200

million aid that Tokyo pledged in October to help the Palestinian self-rule authority in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho set up under the historic autonomy agreement that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

Of that pledge, Japan has already disbursed \$50 million. According to Japanese diplomats, Tokyo is anxious to disburse the rest of the committed amount and is awaiting definite proposals for projects that could use the financing.

Ahmad Qouriea, the economy minister of the Palestine National Authority (PNA), which is in charge of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, was in Japan last week.

In meetings with Japanese officials, he called for expanded Japanese aid to the Palestinian self-rule authorities and Japanese officials promised to study the appeal, reports from Tokyo said.

Mr. Qouriea particularly referred to help for the Palestinian police force which is deployed in the autonomous territories to enforce law and order.

Japan is an active participant in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace and is involved in key projects in the environment and tourism industry. It is also helping develop desalination proposals as a means to address the chronic water shortage in the Middle East.

## Ben Laden said to have left Sudan

BAHRAIN (AP) — Osama Ben Laden, an exiled Saudi Arabian of Yemeni origin who is widely reputed to be the leader of Islamic extremists, may have left Sudan after a two-year stay, a Gulf newspaper has reported.

The Sharjah-based daily Al Khaleej, which is distributed in Bahrain, said in a front-page report from Khartoum that Ben Laden headed for London.

Quoting unnamed "informed Sudanese sources," the newspaper said he travelled from Khartoum on a Sudanese diplomatic passport.

The sources declined to say whether Ben Laden's departure from Sudan was permanent or temporary.

There was no immediate confirmation from Khartoum on the report.

But if it is correct, it could indicate that after handing over "Carlos the Jackal" to France last week, the hard-pressed Sudanese government may be trying to gain international goodwill by pushing out other fugitives.

Sudan's Islamic regime, aided by Iran, is reputed to harbour "fundamentalist" extremists, including groups involved in extremist campaigns in Algeria and Egypt.

The U.S. State Department last year added Sudan to its list of states which support international terrorism, joining Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, North Korea and Cuba.

Mr. Ben Laden was a confidant and a bankroller of Hassan Al Turabi, Sudan's leading fundamentalist and the real power behind the Islamic regime in Khartoum.

The Ben Ladens originally came from southern Yemen.

Decades ago, they emigrated to Saudi Arabia, where they amassed a fortune from the construction business and became one of the country's wealthiest families.

Mr. Ben Laden, like many devout Arab Muslims, joined the Islamic Mujahadeen in Afghanistan to fight the Soviets who invaded in December 1979.

When the Soviets withdrew in 1989 and the communist regime in Kabul fell, many of the seasoned Arab fighters, known as "Arab Afghans," returned to their homelands and helped launch Islamic insurrections against the secular regimes.

Mr. Ben Laden reportedly has used his family's wealth to finance a number of extremist Islamic organisations.

He has been cited in Yemen as the leader of fundamentalists who bombed two hotels in Aden in December 1992 in which two Austrian tourists were killed.

The bombings narrowly missed 100 U.S. servicemen who were deployed there in Operation Restore Hope, which was then starting in Somalia.

At that time, Mr. Ben Laden surfaced in Sudan, where he reportedly became a prominent leader of "the Arab Afghans."

His family, based in Jeddah on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, issued a statement early this year disassociating themselves from him and his reputed terrorist links.

In a rare move, the Saudi government stripped him of his citizenship and froze his assets, reputed to be worth millions of dollars. But he is believed to have large accounts stashed in foreign banks.

## Clinton calls Iraq and Iran 'key obstacles' to peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Bill Clinton has described Iraq and Iran as "the two key obstacles" to a more peaceful future for the Middle East.

U.S. policy, he told the international convention of B'nai B'rith, is to "weaken and isolate" those countries and "those who reject a more peaceful future for the peoples of the troubled region."

The president spoke to the group, which was meeting in Chicago, via a satellite transmission from the White House.

Mr. Clinton said Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's "war against his own people" and his campaign of harassment and intimidation against relief workers and United Nations inspectors demonstrate why international sanctions against Baghdad must be kept in place.

"The true nature of Saddam Hussein's regime remains clear," Mr. Clinton declared. "Relief workers and weapons inspectors face constant harassment and intimidation. Terrorism plagues the Iraqi people."

He cited as examples the "tragic death" of a Shiite clergyman, the summary execution of a bank manager, and the assassination in Beirut of an Iraqi dissident by persons with Iraqi diplomatic credentials.

He said Saddam Hussein "continues to destroy the lives of the marsh Arabs in southern Iraq. These facts serve as reminders of why we must, and why we will, maintain the sanctions."

The president called Iran "the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism," and he called on Washington's allies "to recognise the true nature" of Tehran's intentions, which he said included "attempts to acquire weapons of mass destruction" and "to subvert moderate" regimes that have opted for peace. "He said Washington's allies must make it clear to Tehran that 'we will not tolerate lawless behaviour.'"

Mr. Clinton, citing terrorist acts in Great Britain, Argentina and Panama in the wake of Jordan's agreement to end its state of war against Israel, said the United States

is increasing its cooperation with other nations to contain terrorism.

But he warned that, despite all efforts, there are forces in the world with "a big, vested interest in the continued misery of people in the Middle East... and they hate the fact that peace is winning converts and making progress." Those interests, he charged, want "opportunities to make innocent people pay the price so that they can continue to make money and accumulate political power on the human misery that has dominated the Middle East for decades."

Mr. Clinton said Washington's role in the peace process remains one of facilitating discussions between the parties and of underwriting "reasonable risk-taking." He praised both the "bold steps" Israel has taken for peace and the courage of Arab leaders "who have stood up to the scurrilous charge that they are somehow selling out the Arab cause by securing for their own people a future of peace, prosperity and hope."

## Egypt counting on population conference to win back tourists

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt is counting on the world population conference to help win back the tourists who have abandoned the country since the outbreak of an Islamic militant campaign two years ago.

Tourism Minister Mamduh Al Beltaghy expects the 20,000 delegates to spend around \$87.5 million during the nine-day conference, opening on Sept. 5, in hotel and restaurant bills, taxes and souvenirs.

"The indirect revenue is more important, it will help win-back international confidence that Egypt is safe again," said Fawzi Abdul Maqsood, manager of the conference centre hosting the U.N. population forum.

Besides attacks on police, the militants' campaign of violence has also been aimed at tourists, in a bid to cripple Egypt's economy which depends on the sector for income revenue.

Some 400 people, including eight foreigners, have been killed since March 1992. But since a police crackdown earlier this year, the militants have scaled down their operations.

Tourist traffic was down 45 per cent this year. Before the Islamic campaign, more than two million foreigners visited

Egypt per year, according to Luxor and Aswan, Hurghada, and the Sinai desert, the tourism ministry has called on the services of 18 travel agencies and 24 transport firms.

A feast marking the Nile's high-tide, held for centuries on Aug. 15, has been for the first time ever been postponed until next month to coincide with the conference.

As pharaonic processions make their way down Cairo's main avenues, and felucca boats sail the river, a naad will throw itself into the water in memory of the virgins sacrificed to appease the anger of Haby, god of the Nile.

The streets of Cairo have been undergoing repairs since July and sidewalks are being brightened up with yellow paving stones.

But tourist agencies expect to make little profit themselves from the population conference and complain in private that the ministry is monopolising the event and overcharging.

"For hotel rooms which normally cost \$30 a night at this time of the year, they are charging between \$145 and \$175 for the conference, not including taxes and breakfast," one travel agent said.

To allow delegates to visit

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 77111-19  
PROGRAMME TWO  
17:00 Coup De Bleu Dans L'Etoile  
17:11 Fantomette  
17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin  
18:30 News in French  
18:45 Ushuaia  
19:00 News in Hebrew  
19:15 Dimension  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Movies, Games, and Videos  
21:30 The Campbells  
22:00 News in English  
22:20 Movie of the Week

**PRAYER TIMES**  
06:00 Fajr  
06:00 (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
12:37 Dhuhr  
16:15 'Asr  
19:13 Maghreb  
20:23 'Isha

**CHURCHES**  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swetlith, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 623666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assyrian International Church Tel. 652266  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly to westerly, moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.  
Min/Max temp.  
Amman 20 / 33  
Aqaba 26 / 40  
Deserts 17 / 36  
Jordan Valley 25 / 39  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 32, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**  
**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Jamal Ibrahim 847251  
Dr. Yousef Samour 615648  
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672  
Dr. Issam Al Ammar 890304  
First pharmacy 661912  
Fawzi pharmacy 78336  
Al Asma pharmacy 670183  
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shamsani pharmacy 637660  
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qam 661176  
Alqas Pharmacy 985417  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halasa 982799  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

**EMERGENCIES**  
Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate

**HOSPITALS**  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

**RESERVE**  
Civil Defence Emergency 630341  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 637101  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints 602800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 787111  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 623101  
Complaints 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

**Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm** 644281/6  
Akilhe Maternity, J. Amm 644412/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani 644174  
Shamsani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 945845  
Al-Musader Hospital 66727/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164  
Italian, Al-Mudhara 777101/2  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 778112/6  
Army, Marfa 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50  
Amal Hospital 674135  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90560  
IBBID:  
Bin Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99990  
Palace Basm Hospital (02)25555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)947100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)94111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**  
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL**  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

**AIRPORT**  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200, 5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**  
**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**  
05:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)  
05:50 New York (add) (RJ)  
08:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)  
10:15 Dhahran (RJ)  
10:15 Aqaba (RJ)  
10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
11:00 Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 Colombo (RJ)  
11:30 New Delhi (add) (RJ)  
16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:50 Cairo (RJ)  
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)  
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)  
19:30 Madrid, Rhodes (add) (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**  
**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**  
06:45 Beirut (RJ)  
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)  
10:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:35 Sanaa (YF)  
12:40 Cairo (MS)  
12:55 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
13:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)  
13:45 Cairo (RJ)  
15:55 London (RJ)  
16:30 Madrid (RJ)  
16:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
17:00 Larnaca (RJ)  
17:30 Jeddah (RJ)  
21:45 Damascus (RJ)  
22:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
09:15 Beirut (ME)  
13:50 Vienna (OS)  
14:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)  
21:00 Sanaa (YF)  
21:15 Cairo (MS)  
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)

**MARKET PRICES**  
Upper/lower price in fit per kg.  
Apple 650 / 450  
Banana 680  
Banana (Musaana) 620  
Cabbage 120 / 70  
Carrot 270 / 200  
Cauliflower 200 / 120  
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 100  
Cucumbers (small) 370 / 220  
Eggplant 180 / 100  
Fig 350 / 320  
Garlic 900 / 700  
Grapes 280 / 200  
Lemon 480 / 380  
Marrow (large) 200 / 100  
Marrow (small) 420 / 300  
Mushrooms 140 / 70  
Okra 1100 / 800  
Orange 380 / 300  
Onion (dry) 270 / 200  
Pumpkin 700 / 500  
Sweet Melon 180 / 100  
Pepper (hot) 250 / 180  
Pepper (sweet) 280 / 180  
Potato 450 / 350  
Peaches 900 / 600  
Tomato 120 / 70  
String beans 700 / 500  
Watermelon 70 / 50

**Jordan Times Tel: 667171**

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09:15 Beirut (ME)  
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14:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)  
21:00 Sanaa (YF)  
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Cucumbers (small) 370 / 220  
Eggplant 180 / 100  
Fig 350 / 320  
Garlic 900 / 700  
Grapes 280 / 200  
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String beans 700 / 500  
Watermelon 70 / 50



## Queen visits Ramtha, discusses expanding NHF garment industry project in Mafrag

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday visited Al Hassan Industrial City in Ramtha to attend celebrations on the occasion of the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne.

The Queen opened an exhibition of Jordanian products manufactured at Al Hassan Industrial City. The exhibition displayed products from 20 local factories including ceramics, handicrafts, plastics, furniture, foodstuff and detergents, some of which are exported to other Arab countries and to the United States.

The products illustrated significant industrial growth which generates employment and income, benefits the people and promotes development.

Queen Noor met with handicapped children from the district and distributed gifts to them.

Following performances by various local artists, which included folkloric dances, national songs and poetry recitals, the Queen distributed the district's shields to the director of the radio station and to three active women in the social services sector for their contribution to the development of the Ramtha community.

During the visit, Queen Noor opened an exhibition on national heritage by local communities and charitable societies, and discussed ways to develop their production and market it effectively to generate income and raise the individual standard of living.

Queen Noor also opened an exhibition of paintings of the Hashemite Royal Family organised by Al Ramtha Arts Society.

Queen Noor later visited the Rayyah Garment Industry Project in Mafrag, which is an income generating project of the Women-In-Development Programme of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

In 1986, the NHF undertook the management of this project, which was initiated in 1985 by the Catholic Relief Organisation.

The Rayyah Project trains local low-income women to sew, and provides them with employment and income to enable them to become self-reliant.

The project provides the women with educational information on health, nutrition, family care and home economics.

The Queen commended the workers and directors for their efforts and discussed ways to expand the project to employ a larger number of local women, to increase production to include both tenders and direct marketing and to extend production to the home.

Queen Noor was received by Inam Mufri, development and planning advisor to the Queen, Ismail Al Jarrah, acting governor of Irbid, Aref Abu Karaki, district officer of Ramtha, Adnan Shamayleh, director of border, the chief of police, members of the Lower House of Parliament and other officials.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday distributes gifts to handicapped children in Ramtha during a visit to the area to attend celebrations marking the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne (Photo by George Crystal)

## King praises PSD, stresses role of police in emerging era of peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday praised the Public Security Department's (PSD) role in safeguarding citizens' security and protecting the norms and laws governing "our life."

During a meeting at PSD headquarters attended by PSD Director Gen. Abdul Rahman Udwan, Maj. Gen. Sharif Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah, and senior PSD officers, King Hussein voiced pride in the department's personnel, saying that they have worked day and night with honesty and dedication to live up to the confidence they are entrusted with.

The King told them that Jordan is at the threshold of a new era and a battle of a different kind, which requires "from all of us to exert more effort and to define our present and future responsibilities in order to maintain the momentum of our contribution, upgrade performance and conduct continuous reviews to ensure that we continue to set an idea and example for others in the region."

King Hussein pledged every possible support to the PSD so that they are able to perform their duties to the fullest at all times.

The King noted that the PSD efforts have gone beyond national borders to cover different parts of the world. "Your colleagues distinguished presence at the international level and participation in the peace-keeping operations have won them our pride and the respect and appreciation of the international community," the King said.

He added that the security and stability Jordan enjoys provides the opportunity for everybody to contribute and participate, through Shoura (consultation), democracy, the Constitution and the National Charter, in shaping the present and future.

King Hussein said "if we look at what we have achieved with so little, in comparison to what others have achieved we will rest assured that we will achieve a great deal in the future and will be in a situation where we will not fear developments in this part of the world," the King said.

The King called for enhancing and protecting national unity.

"We in this country are one family and will continue to be, inspired and prompted by our resolve and insistence to protect our national unity," the King added that Jordan has suffered from a blockade, pressure and siege, yet it has continued its search for a just, comprehensive and durable peace.

"We found ourselves in the Arab region moving from the same point in the face of international developments and in our drive to establish peace," King Hussein said.

Jordan's decision to attend the Madrid peace conference was made after consultations with the people in a national meeting, he said, adding that Jordan has provided an umbrella to the Palestinians in line with Jordan's position at the Rabat Arab summit.

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His Majesty King Hussein Thursday addresses senior officers of the Public Security Department. At the King's side is PSD Director Major General Abdul Rahman Udwan

However, the King said, the Palestinians later took their own decision and opted to go their own way alone. Yet Jordan continued to support them until they restore their rights on their national soil, the King said.

King Hussein said, "as a result of the developments and the facts on the ground, this country looked as if it was threatened in its national unity and in its human resources, in its present and future, deprived from any support, besieged and weak. This required a responsible stand in conformity with our call for a just and comprehensive peace."

When it became apparent that I personally had to fulfil a duty towards my country and every single member of my united family, I did not hesitate because I am one of you and for you. You are my comrades and partners in shouldering the responsibility."

The King said he hoped that Jordan's serious march to establish a just and comprehensive peace will bear fruit.

The King said Jordan will remain a symbol of steadfastness and resolve to face the dangers and challenges, adding that "I believe no one can compete with us or has the right to claim that he has done more than us."

King Hussein said, "it is a great honour for this country to have always been at the vanguard of its nation, it has sacrificed and offered martyrs in Jerusalem and Palestine. Jordan will continue to be the home for immigrants and supporters (Al Muhajireen Wal Ansar)," the King said.

He added that his great grandfather Sharif Hussein Ben Ali lies buried near Al Aqsa Mosque and that his grandfather, the late King Abdullah, was killed in Al Aqsa Mosque yard. "The Jordanian martyrs who fell in defence of Al Aqsa and Palestine in Jerusalem, Larone, Bab Al Wad are shining stars and living evidence on Jordan's sacrifices for Palestine," the King said.

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## A young girl's battle for life

By Angham Tamimi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When disease besieges us, happiness vanishes, all the beautiful, bright pictures darken and we grieve. If we are old enough, we may accept the battle, try to fight it, and perhaps win. But for 12-year-old Heba, she can do nothing but surrender.

Heba kept saying "I do not want more drugs. They are of no use. Even food will not give me back my strength." Heba Rushdi is suffering aplastic anaemia, a disease in which bone marrow fails to produce an adequate number of blood cells.

Symptoms of Heba's chronic aplastic anaemia include weakness and fatigue in the early stages, followed by shortness of breath, headache, fever, and pounding heart. There is usually a waxy pallor, and hemorrhages over the mucous membrane, skin, and other organs.

If white blood cells (specifically, neutrophils) are lacking, resistance to infection is much lowered, and infection becomes the major cause of death. When platelets are very low, bleeding may be severe.

The young patient, who lives in Zarqa, failed to respond to any treatment, and showed no improvement in her peripheral blood picture since she was eight years old. She was admitted to hospital several times because of fever and convulsions and received a

broad spectrum of antibiotics until recovery. The only alternative is for Heba to undergo a bone marrow transplant, ideally from a compatible sibling.

As a consequence of being administered various experimental drugs, Heba often requires blood transfusions (one bottle every ten days) and numerous blood spectrum antibiotics.

From 1986 to 1990, Heba and her parents lived in Kuwait. Doctors there refused to explain her case to her parents, although they had diagnosed it as severe aplastic anaemia. All they said was "when she grows up, and becomes mature, bring her and we will treat her."

In June 1991, she was admitted to Zarqa Hospital because her health had seriously deteriorated, but doctors there also failed to help, according to her father.

They suggested taking her to Jordan University Hospital for a more accurate diagnosis and better treatment.

Unfortunately, in September 1991 doctors at Jordan University Hospital were unable to treat Heba. She was sent to Hussein Medical Centre in November 1992, but still she met with disappointment.

Most doctors believe that her case cannot be treated in Jordan because during the only bone marrow transplant conducted in Jordan the patient died.

Aplastic anaemia is called Mediterranean Sea disease. It infects one individual in a million in the region. But it is one of the diseases in which bone-marrow transplants can be very successful. Heba has three healthy sisters and a brother. Two of her sisters are compatible donors.

Heba's father contacted the Cathin Raymond International Registry of Bone Marrow Donor Banks at the University of Massachusetts Medical Centre in the U.S., which sent him a list of donors from France, Britain, Israel, Canada, Belgium and the U.S.



Heba Rushdi

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Heba sits at home today, hoping to return to school once she defeats her illness, and her parents pray for a miracle.

But because this kind of transplant operation is very costly, Heba and her family are seeking financial support.

Heba, a cheerful, independent adolescent, should have joined her young classmates returning to school today from the summer holidays. But Heba's condition is deteriorating, and the average day of a school child could actually prove dangerous for her.

So Heba sits at home today, hoping to return to school once she defeats her illness, and her parents pray for a miracle.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King congratulates Moldova

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to President Mircea Snegur of Moldova, congratulating him on his country's independence day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the people of Moldova further progress and prosperity.

#### Russian envoy ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Viktor Posovalyuk, a personal representative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Thursday left Amman for the West Bank, concluding a several-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Posovalyuk also held talks with senior Jordanian officials on developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Russian relations.

#### Intellectual property rights meeting to start

AMMAN (Petra) — The regional meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) starts here today with representatives of the Arab countries attending. The meeting, which will be attended by Minister of

#### Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and the WIPO's director general, will discuss among other things the protection of patents, the role of patents in technological development, WIPO's programme of cooperation and the role of its offices in protecting intellectual property, selecting technological information and supporting innovation.

#### Arab labour education workshop concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Khaled Ghazawi Friday underlined Jordan's keenness to preserve joint Arab action and the Kingdom's untiring efforts to overcome problems facing it. In an address delivered at the conclusion of a seminar on new trends in Arab labour education, Mr. Ghazawi called for translating recommendations issued by the workshop into action in cooperation with the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO). Representatives of Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, Sudan, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Yemen in addition to the ALO and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) participated in the seminar, which opened its workshop Aug. 21. The participants stressed the need to focus on the role of labourers and their unions in economic and social development.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### DANCE

★ Performance of Circassian dances at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.

#### LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Economic Groupings and the Middle Eastern Market" by Dr. Sharif Abu Jaber at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space 1" by Samia Zarou at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Clothing and fashion industry exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).  
★ Exhibition of abstract art by Ghaleb Nabl and International Yass Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 639350).

وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان  
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING  
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

### INVITATION FOR PRE-SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE AMMAN-AL-SAMRA SEWAGE CONVEYOR

The Water Authority of Jordan through the government Tenders Directorate of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, invites highly qualified and experienced consulting firms, in the field of wastewater collection and treatment systems, from the Federal Republic of Germany in association with Class "A" Water and Sewerage, Class "A" Buildings and Class "A or B" in Roads, Jordanian consultant(s), to submit the firm's prospectus including financial status, general qualifications and previous experience.

Under this project, the consultant(s) shall carry out the design of a new parallel siphon or pipeline(s) and shall study an alternative route. The existing siphon is 38.6 km in length and 1200mm in nominal diameter.

Summary of the project is available from the government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, P.O. Box 1220, Tel. (+) 962 6 607 481, Fax. (+) 962 6 606 751, Amman, Jordan.

German consultants may collect copy of this invitation from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, KfW, Palmengartenstraße 5-9, P.O. Box 11 11 41, D-6000 Frankfurt am Main 11, Germany. Tel. (0-69) 74 31 2906 or (0-69) 74 31 2673 Fax. (0-69) 74 31 29 44.

Preselection data are due not later than 1300 hours Jordan local time on Saturday 24 September 1994, to the office of the government Tenders Directorate/Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Eng. Bashir Jaghbeer  
Chairman of the Central Tendering Committee  
General Director  
Government Tenders Directorate



## Bombay hit by general strike after killing Hindu nationalist

BOMBAY (R) — Supporters of two hardline Hindu parties stoned buses and trains in Bombay Friday to enforce a general strike called to protest the killing of a local political leader.

"There are several cases of stoning in the city but there is no major trouble," a police spokesman said, adding there were no reports of casualties.

Witnesses said hundreds of supporters of the opposition right-wing Hindu Shiv Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were marching the streets, waving saffron flags and hurling stones at passing vehicles.

The BJP and Shiv Sena called the strike in this city of 12 million people, India's financial capital, to protest against the killing Thursday of Ramdas Nayak, the BJP's Bombay chief.

Mr. Nayak, 49, was shot dead in a western suburb by two men on a motorbike who riddled his car with bullets from an AK-56 rifle.

Mr. Nayak's bodyguard also died in the attack, which shocked the country. The driver and two passengers were injured.

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao condemned the killing as a savage and uncivilised act.

BJP President Lal Krishnan Advani, due to come to Bombay for Mr. Nayak's funeral, attributed the murder to what he called the

criminalisation of politics.

A series of shootings in India's commercial capital has been linked to Bombay's organised crime gangs. Its victims include politicians and businessmen.

A state government official said the strike began quietly Friday with little sign of trouble, but there were growing reports of violence as BJP and Shiv Sena supporters tried to enforce the strike.

"They are trying to stop suburban trains at some places," the official said. Witnesses said the protesters were stoning trains and had damaged signal lights on suburban railway tracks.

Last year another BJP leader, state legislator Premkumar Sharma, was also shot by motorbike assassins. Press reports said he had fallen foul of criminals involved in Bombay's construction industry.

Barely a month earlier a leader and legislator of the Shiv Sena party was shot dead.

The Shiv Sena has fought elections together with the BJP on a common platform preaching a revival of militant Hinduism. Their electoral alliance, however, has since ended.

The BJP, India's main opposition party, is gearing up for crucial elections to 10 states between November and next March.

It shot to prominence in the last parliamentary elections in May 1991, winning 180 out of 544 seats after campaigning for a temple to be built to the Hindu deity Ram on the site of a mosque at Ayodhya in northern India.

Zealous BJP supporters razed the mosque in December 1992, provoking nationwide Hindu-Muslim riots in which 2,000 people, mainly Muslims, died. Much of the bloodshed was in Bombay.

Police believe Muslim mafia-linked gangs took revenge for the riots, exploding bombs in Bombay last year.

Meanwhile, Indian police have arrested four more alleged masterminds of the bombings that killed about 260 people in Bombay in a single day last year, Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan told parliament Friday.

He said the members of the Memon family, reputed to have formerly been a powerful criminal gang in Bombay, were arrested Thursday.

Mr. Chavan said federal police arrested Abdul Razzak Memon and three of his sons, Isa, Yusuf and Suleiman, each of whom carried a reward of 100,000 rupees (\$3,175).

Detained along with them were Hanifa, Abdul Razzak's wife, and Rubina, Suleiman's wife, for whom there was a reward of 25,000 rupees (\$800) each, Mr. Chavan said.

He said incriminating documents had been recovered but did not elaborate.

Mr. Chavan refused to say where the six were arrested, saying the case was sensitive and further investigations were needed before more details could be published.

However, senior officials who asked not to be identified said the six were brought back from Dubai on a commercial flight late Thursday.

There was no word on the whereabouts of another Memon brother, nicknamed Tiger. Prosecutors allege he was the chief plotter along with Dawood Ibrahim, an alleged Gulf-based Indian mobster who has denied any connection with the bombings.

Indian newspapers have been abuzz with rumours of an impending deal with the Memons to hand themselves in since Yakub Razzak Memon, another son of Abdul Razzak, appeared in court on Aug. 5.

The Times Of India quoted unidentified highly-placed sources as saying there had been a deal that persuaded the Memons to return, but gave no further details.

The Memons will face charges that could carry the death penalty over a series of 13 bombs that devastated Bombay, India's financial and commercial capital, on March 12 last year.



The bullet-riddled body of radical Hindu unidentified gunman sparked a call by the leader Ramdas Nayak lies in an ambulance, local Hindu organisations for a shutdown in awaiting post-mortem at a local hospital. The Bombay to protest the assassination (AFP)

## Clinton scores win with crime bill

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton is celebrating one of the biggest legislative victories of his first two years in office with final passage of a \$30 billion crime bill.

The Senate completed action on the bill Thursday night on a 61-38 vote, sending the legislation to Mr. Clinton for his signature. The House of Representatives passed the bill Sunday.

"This crime bill is going to make every neighbourhood in America safer — and the bipartisan spirit that produced it should give every American hope that we can come together to do the job they sent us here to do," Mr. Clinton said in a statement.

"Police officers will no longer be threatened by gangs and thugs with easy access to deadly assault weapons designed only for war. Violent criminals are going to learn quickly that the revolving

door on our prisons has been locked and bolted shut," he added.

It was the first major crime bill passed by Congress in six years.

Republicans had blocked a final vote on the \$30 billion bill since Monday, trying to get the majority Democrats to allow a vote on their amendments to cut the bill by at least \$5 billion and make it tougher.

"This bill is not tough on crime," said Utah Republican Orrin Hatch.

But Democrats, with the help of six Republicans, broke the deadlock, overturning a Republican point of order against the bill on a 61-39 vote. Sixty votes were required to win.

Had the point of order been sustained, the bill would have been killed. "I regret that I failed as a leader to keep the Republicans together," Republican

leader Bob Dole said.

Kentucky Democrat Wendell Ford said the crime issue had become a "hot horseshoe" for Republicans, who long have claimed they are tougher on crime than Democrats.

Democrats claimed Republicans were acting on behalf of the National Rifle Association, which wanted the bill defeated because it bans 19 semiautomatic weapons.

In addition to the gun ban, the bill would authorize funds for 100,000 local police over five years, more prisons and crime prevention programmes and would lock up for life anyone convicted of three violent crimes. It would also extend the federal death penalty to 60 crimes.

"It's a fair, strong, well-crafted bill. This bill is right for the American people," Senate majority leader George Mitchell said.

## India bans hip jerks double meanings in films

NEW DELHI (R) — India's censors, cracking down on increasing sex and violence in movies, have banned pelvic gyrations, double entendres, fights with chains and stab wounds in films, the government announced.

Information and Broadcasting Minister K.P. Singh Deo spelt out the new censorship rules in parliament Thursday after government-appointed censors reported frequent breaches of censorship guidelines in the world's biggest movie industry. Indian films must be approved by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) before being publicly screened. Mr. Singh Deo told parliament in a statement the CBFC objected to scenes of violence, particularly those involving places of worship, hospitals or orphanages. Violent scenes involving belts, chains or animals were also considered unpalatable, he said.

Mr. Singh Deo added that the board also considers vulgar: "Selectively exposing women's anatomy (e.g. breasts, cleavage, thighs, navel) in song and dance numbers, through suggestive and flimsy dresses, movements, and zooming particularly in close shots."

The government has been facing protests over increased levels of sex and violence in films. It recently asked the board to redefine its definition of vulgarity. Last month film stars protested against the move.

Dunaway sues over dismissal from Broadway show

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Actress Faye Dunaway sued stage producer Andrew Lloyd Webber seeking more than \$27 million in damages after being fired from the starring role in the musical Sunset Boulevard. The suit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court charges the British composer and producer with defamation, breach of contract and fraud. "I hope that I am the last in a long line of artists who have come to this man's productions in good faith and have suffered great personal and professional injury," Dunaway said in a statement. Dunaway's selection had raised eyebrows because of her lack of singing experience. The 53-year-old actress was fired in June after several weeks of rehearsals, before taking over the role played by Glenn Close. Patti Lupone, who starred in the original London production, was then tapped for the role, but replaced later by Close.

Lupone settled a lawsuit with the British producer in May for a sum reported to be more than \$1 million. The composer-producer known for Cats, Jesus Christ Superstar and other hit musicals made no immediate comment. But a spokesman for Lloyd Webber said the suit "has no merit and will be defended vigorously." The suit seeks \$27 million in actual damages and unspecified punitive damages.

French spy chief backs 'kill Carlos' order

PARIS (R) — A former French secret service chief Friday defended a plan to assassinate guerrilla leader "Carlos the jackal" in the 1980s, saying that even democracies sometimes found it best to ignore the law.

"No state can rule out... such operations, including democracies," Yves Bonnet, who headed the domestic secret service DST in the early 1980s, told Reuters.

"In regard to Carlos it may seem shocking, but in my opinion there is a limit to respect for the law," he said. "If there had been a chance to eliminate Hitler... it would have been wrong to wait a legal procedure."

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua says France plans a fair trial for Carlos, caught last week in Sudan and spirited to France after gaining an infamy for a 20-year string of bombings, mainly in Europe and the Middle East.

Admissions of a death order against the Venezuelan-born Carlos have provoked little reaction in France, where many seem tacitly to accept the idea that the state can order a killing to counter terrorism.

Carlos is in a Paris jail, formally under investigation for a 1982 bombing in Paris in which a pregnant woman died and 63 other people were injured. Dossiers on other attacks are also being reopened.

He was sentenced in absentia to life in jail in 1992 for shooting dead two secret service agents in 1975. Mr. Pasqua has accused Carlos of killing 83 people worldwide, including at least 15 French citizens.

Mr. Bonnet said the late Interior Minister Gaston Defferre gave the official go-ahead to kill Carlos in December 1982 — a year when attacks blamed on Carlos had claimed six lives in France.

"We had had the opportunity to locate Carlos. It was Mr. Defferre's decision alone to go ahead. But it could not be carried out for technical reasons," Mr. Bonnet said, declining to elaborate.

"Of course such decisions must not become a general rule, and must be taken at the highest levels," he said. He said that Carlos was the only target of a French assassination order of which he was aware.

Among French political parties, only the Greens Party has said the idea of secret death orders raised troubling issues in a democracy which abolished the death penalty in 1981.

Carlos was a "wildcat" who once threatened to seize the East German embassy in Paris unless its agents helped free his girlfriend from a French jail, East Germany's spy master says.

The East German secret police, the Stasi, hosted Carlos for much of the 1980s in East Berlin. Their role in his terrorist career has figured prominently in reports since the Venezuelan.

Former Stasi spy master Markus Wolf, in an interview Thursday in the Berlin newspaper Tageszeitung, says the Stasi were afraid of Carlos and his friends and mainly tolerated them to stay on Carlos' good side.

"He'd spend all night at the bar of the Palace Hotel, his pistol holster unbuckled, surrounded by women, drinking like a fish. He seemed ready to do anything. He even threatened us," Mr. Wolf said.

## 100-day mourning period delays N.Korean succession

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea has delayed announcing its designated leader Kim Jong-il because of a 100-day mourning period for his father Kim Il-Sung, according to reports Friday quoting Chinese and South Korean officials.

"North Korea held a four-day meeting of the ruling Workers Party on July 20

and decided on a 100-day mourning period," a senior Chinese official was quoted as saying in a telephone interview with South Korea's respected newspaper, Dong-A.

"Therefore, the announcement of Kim Jong-il's succession (to his father's posts) will probably be made only after the mourning period ends on

Oct. 16," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The delay in announcing the junior Kim's succession as president and party general secretary has triggered speculation here and abroad that there might be resistance to the father-to-son succession.

South Korea's intelligence agency, the National Security Planning Agency (NSPA),

confirmed that the North had set a 100-day mourning period for government leaders and party cadres.

Shin Sang-Woo, chairman of the National Assembly information committee, said NSPA Director Kim Deok told the committee that the succession might have been delayed because of the mourning period.

## Chirac in losing battle for French presidential polls

PARIS (AFP) — French Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac struggled this week to gain the upper hand in the battle for the presidency in next spring's elections, but his prospects seemed dim in face of his seemingly impregnable rival, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Mr. Chirac, 61, already a loser in presidential elections in 1981 and 1988, fought hard to reverse his declining fortunes but seemed unable to make any impact on Mr. Balladur, who continued to ride high in opinion polls.

For the first time, his own party, the Rally For the Republic (RPR), admitted Wednesday that it would have to choose between Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur for the candidacy.

RPR Secretary-General Alain Juppé, the foreign minister, made it clear that the party's candidate would

not automatically be its chairman, Mr. Chirac.

"When the time comes, we shall choose," Mr. Juppé said, adding that the essential was to preserve party unity.

The RPR is the biggest party in the ruling right-wing coalition. Big guns in its junior partner, the Union for French Democracy (UDF), have already openly backed Mr. Balladur for the presidency. Among them are Defence Minister Francois Leotard and Health Minister Simone Veil.

Mr. Juppé, up till now pro-Chirac, changed tack as opinion polls showed the Gaullist leader could lose against Jacques Delors, the outgoing European Commission president and a former moderate Socialist finance minister.

Mr. Delors, 68, has so far been reluctant to declare his candidacy, but appears the Socialists' best hope.

In a Gallup poll this week for the weekly L'Express, Mr. Balladur, who is also in the RPR, gained eight per cent in popularity to 58 per cent, while 36 per cent disapproved of his policies, a seven-point fall since July.

In another poll in mid-August, by the CSA Institute for the daily Parisien Libere, 50 per cent expressed confidence in Mr. Balladur as future "president of the republic," a one-point fall over a month.

Mr. Delors remained the same at 47 per cent, but Mr. Chirac dropped two points to 34 per cent, and was even overtaken by former Prime Minister Raymond Barre who, at 35 per cent, gained two points.

Mr. Chirac came back on the scene after a summer holiday that had been favourable to Mr. Balladur and his government. Interior Minister

Charles Pasqua scored points by engineering the capture in Sudan of international terrorist Carlos.

Mr. Pasqua, who could be crucial in swinging RPR support either for Mr. Chirac or for Mr. Balladur, also won more popularity by rounding up and informing alleged Islamic fundamentalist sympathisers in France after the killing of three French gendarmes and two consular officials in Algiers earlier in the month.

Mr. Balladur could also claim credit for France's humanitarian operation in Rwanda.

And signs of economic recovery appeared to be working in 64-year-old Balladur's favour after months of sniping from within the RPR about the government's failure to reduce unemployment.

## Paris marks liberation with solemnity and fete

PARIS (AP) — Chimes pealed from the towers of Notre Dame and a passion play reenacting the dour drama of World War II moved through city streets Thursday as Parisians marked the 50th anniversary of their liberation from the Nazis, ending with fireworks and fete.

Hundreds of thousands of people gathered to share,

through song, symbolism and memories, the triumphant entrance into Paris of the Free French Army and the end of Nazi occupation.

Chimes pealed from the two towers of Notre Dame cathedral, whose 14-ton bell along with those in all Paris' churches had been silenced during the four-years of Nazi control that began in 1940.

"With the liberation of Paris by the French, with the help of the allies, France rediscovered its honour among nations," said Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac in an evening address at the Hotel De Ville, or City Hall.

"France was resuscitated, while the whole world was vibrant with emotion," Mr. Chirac said.

In a grand finale, fireworks shot skyward along a 2.5-kilometre (1.5-mile) stretch of the Seine River, followed by a grand outdoor ball at the Place De La Concorde.

Avenues were blocked off for an after-dark parade by 800 cyclists and 120 vintage military vehicles along the route taken by Gen. Philippe Leclerc's troops on Aug. 25, 1944. Actors retold the horrors of World War II in a modern-day passion play to Parisians lining the streets.

A fireman clambered up the Eiffel Tower to suspend a huge French flag, just as a fireman had done 50 years ago to replace the Swastika and giant "V" the Germans had erected to denote their ultimate victory.

Hundreds of visitors strolled through a photography exhibit at the Hotel De Ville featuring pictures of the fight for Paris by Robert Doisneau, Suzanne Laroche, the Associated Press and others.

The photos ranged from the tender — lovers nuzzling on a park bench behind barbed wire — to the gruesome — bodies run over by a tank on Aug. 20, 1944. "It is a tremendous mem-

ory... were young, in our 20s," said French veteran Edgar Claude, 72, of the exhibit. He leaned on a cane and occasionally stroked the medals on his chest.

On Aug. 25, he was a 22-year-old member of the Free French Army entering Paris.

"We were so overcome by joyful Parisians surrounding us that we didn't see much of the city," Mr. Claude said. Today he feels "a great contentment. We are free. It means so very much to me because I don't be here to see the 100th anniversary."

He was an infantryman in the Chad March Regiment, named after Gen. Leclerc's campaign to recapture in the name of Gen. De Gaulle some of France's former African territories.

Many of the photos at the exhibition were of Gen. De Gaulle, known to most French only through radio broadcasts as he directed the Free French movement from exile in Britain.

Gen. De Gaulle was in a race with the Communists, with his prestige and future at stake, to recapture Paris. He feared an allied decision to bypass France in its pursuit of Germany's retreating army would make it ripe for takeover by the better-



People standing on a U.S. World War II tank wave to the crowd on Avenue Desferriere, on their way to the Latin Quarter where they re-enact the arrival of General Leclerc's troops in the capital 50 years ago. This parade was celebrating the liberation of Paris by the 2nd French Armoured Division (AFP photo)

## Bridal sale attracts 1,500 brides-to-be

BOSTON (AP) — Here come the brides — watch out. About 1,500 eager brides-to-be charged into a department store bargain basement to battle over satin and lace in a bridal gown sale in which all dresses sold for \$199. At one point, two women scuffled over a wedding dress, prompting a security guard to intervene.

"They just keep coming and coming and coming," said Pat Boudrot, spokeswoman for the Filene's Basement Department Store. The store runs the sale four times a year, but the latest sale drew a record number of customers. She said some of the gowns retail elsewhere for \$3,000 or more. "I once saw a sash for \$7,500, so you save big, but you go through a lot to get it," Ms. Boudrot said.

Many of the women camped out as early as three hours beforehand, bringing a team of friends and relatives to help in the search for the perfect dress. It took about 30 seconds for the entire inventory of 910 dresses to be pulled off the racks, Ms. Boudrot said. Once each bride-to-be grabbed an armful of dresses, the bartering begins, with women trading dresses in hopes of finding one that fits. "It's a very emotional purchase to begin with, and then you add the intensity and excitement of the event. I usually tell people just to relax, have fun," Ms. Boudrot said. The next sale is planned for November.



French President Francois Mitterrand (left) speaks with Colonel Henri Rol-Tanguy after decorating him with the Great Cross of the Legion of Honour at Montparnasse train station, during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Paris. Col. Rol-Tanguy commanded the resistance fighters who were instrumental in the capital's liberation (AFP photo)



# World News

India bans hip  
jacks double  
meanings in film

NEW DELHI (R) — Censors, cracking down on increasing sex and violence in movies, have banned hip jacks, double entendres in films, the government announced. The ban on hip jacks, which are a type of dance move, was announced by the Ministry of Information and Public Relations. The ban is part of a new censorship rule. The rule says that any film that contains "obscene" or "immoral" content will be banned. The rule also says that any film that contains "excessive" violence will be banned. The rule is expected to be implemented soon.

unaway sues  
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S ANGELES (AP) — Rainey, a 32-year-old woman, is suing the producers of the television show "The Howard Stern Show" for sexual harassment. Rainey claims that she was sexually harassed by Howard Stern and his associates while she was working on the show. She is seeking damages of \$2 million. The show is a late-night radio program that is known for its explicit content. The producers of the show are denying the allegations.

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ON (AP) — He has been watching 1,500 eager brides get into a department store's basement to buy wedding dresses and accessories. The store is holding a sale on wedding dresses and accessories. The sale is expected to attract a large number of brides. The store is offering discounts on a wide range of wedding-related items. The sale is expected to last for several days.



Hundreds of cars are lining up for days to get some petrol. The three main oil-workers union that declared the general strike eight weeks ago, demanding the liberation of the opposition leader Moshood Abiola, have been dissolved Thursday by Nigeria's military regime (AFP photo)

## Nigerian oil union leaders go into hiding

LAGOS (Agencies) — The sacked leaders of Nigeria's striking oil workers' unions said Friday they had gone into hiding to avoid arrest by security agencies. "They are looking for us all over the place," Wariebi Agamene, the sacked president of the blue-collar union NUPENG, told Reuters. The union launched the strike on July 4 to press for the release and installation of Moshood Abiola, believed to have won last year's annulled presidential election.

It was joined two weeks later by the white-collar union PENGASSAN and most of the workers have defied a government order to resume work by Thursday. An official of state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) said Friday NNPC staff had resumed work. But he said workers in other oil companies appeared to be staying on strike. "Those in NNPC are government employees and are

fully back because they know they will be sacked otherwise," he said. The military government sacked the union chiefs last week and said workers who failed to return to work risked losing their jobs. "It is an empty threat. We are meeting at the weekend and will decide our next line of action," Mr. Agamene said.

His own sacked General Secretary Frank Kokori is among nearly half a dozen people detained after the government cracked down on the strike and pro-democracy protests last week. Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen Friday opened fire on watchmen at the offices of prominent Nigerian lawyer and opposition activist Gani Fawehinmi, seriously wounding two of the guards, the lawyer told AFP Friday.

"They came into our chambers and shot two of our guard," Mr. Fawehinmi said, adding that the injured watchmen were taken to hospital in the Ikeja district. "When they were shooting, they were shouting that they will kill more people until they kill (the) boss, myself, who is a main opposition man to the government," he added.

Mr. Fawehinmi is currently defending jailed opposition leader Moshood Abiola as well as the national executive of one of Nigeria's two powerful oil unions.

Mr. Abiola is on trial for treason in the federal capital Abuja for declaring himself Nigeria's president in June on the anniversary of an election he is believed to have won. In Lagos, he is suing the junta over his detention. The oil union has also taken the government to court in Lagos.

Nigeria's main trade union body, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), has challenged the government in court over the dissolution of its national executive last week, press reports said Friday.

Junta leader General Sani Abacha decreed the dissolution of the NLC's executive committee and those of two oil workers' unions behind damaging eight-week strike called to press an end to military rule.

In a suit filed Thursday, the dismissed president of the NLC, Pascal Bafyau, called on the Federal High Court in Lagos to declare that the dissolution order was in breach of the International Labour Organisation's convention on freedom of association and protection of trade union act.

The NLC leader also asked the court to hand down an order restraining new union administrators appointed by the military from assuming office, the press reports said.

The junta has already promulgated two decrees to back up the dissolution of the union executives.

## Aid workers on alert against Rwandan refugees in Zaire camps

BUKAVU, Zaire (Agencies) — Aid workers said Friday they were taking precautions against Rwandan refugees they were supposed to be helping after outbreaks of violence in teeming camps around eastern Zaire.

"We are tightening up security for our staff," Trevor Page, team leader for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) told reporters.

"We are being more careful by keeping in touch with each other by radio, telling each other which camp we're going to and when, so that if there's an incident we can help each other."

The precautions follow reports by the U.N. and other organizations that there was a virtual state of war in the squalid refugee camps around the town of Goma in eastern Zaire which hold more than 800,000 Hutus.

In Geneva, the U.N. refugee agency said Friday it was returning to a camp near Bukavu it evacuated a day ago, but called on refugee leaders and Zaire to improve security after threats against aid workers there.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also welcomed a plan to raise the number of human rights monitors in Rwanda to 150 from the 26 due to be fully in place by next week.

Their presence, intended to deter further violence, would improve stability and encourage refugees to return home.

Aid officials in Zaire said Thursday that intimidation

by young Hutu militiamen, general thuggery and the Zaire army's apparent inability to control the teeming camps were making it almost impossible to do their work.

An Irish aid worker at Inera Camp in Bukavu had a grenade held to his throat Thursday by refugees convinced that the aid workers were Americans.

Hostility to Americans and Britons, who are regarded as backing Uganda, sponsor of Rwanda's victorious Anglophone Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) army, is high. English and American journalists are greeted with hisses of "accomplice, accomplice" when they tour the refugee camps. Photographers are often shoed away by young men with machetes.

"There is an enormous resentment among the refugees, who feel that the Hutus have been unjustly blamed for the massacres of Tutsis and were condemned to losing the war against the RPF when an arms embargo was slapped on Rwanda," said Kris Janowski, a UNHCR official.

He added: "What is alarming is there seems to be a pattern of incidents here (in Bukavu) and in Goma with intimidation against refugees and threats against aid workers."

On Thursday Hutu militiamen beat up a fellow refugee who had encouraged others to return home, accusing him of being a Tutsi.

Another UNHCR official, Ray Wilkinson, said Thursday it was only a matter of

time before there would be incidents involving the hundreds of foreign aid workers now operating in the camps in eastern Zaire.

He said veterans of aid work in Afghanistan and Cambodia had never experienced anything like this level of danger.

In the past week in Goma, a group of game scouts waiting to be repatriated to Rwanda's gorilla wildlife park have been set upon, two men were hacked to death and five Hutu militiamen caught looting were killed by refugees.

In Bukavu, five French Red Cross workers left after being threatened with death by refugees blaming France for the Hutu defeat at the hands of the RPF.

While aid workers admit that overcrowding, hunger and disastrous early rains have pushed the camps to the point of explosion, they are convinced that much of the violence is being instigated by Hutu militiamen trying to prevent a mass return in Rwanda.

These men, many of whom played a key role in the massacres of hundreds of thousands of Tutsis, know they face prosecution and possible execution if they go back. They are determined that the Tutsi-dominated RPF will inherit only a wasteland devoid of people.

"The violence is being instigated quite ruthlessly by people with enormous clout in the camps who are turning people against those trying to help them," Mr. Janowski said.

"These are the same thugs

who control the Goma camps. They are hostile to the U.N. and hostile to the principle of return."

Dysentery and child diseases are still killing about 500 people each day in Rwandan refugee camps around Goma, the United Nations and Relief Agency staff said Friday.

UNHCR staff estimate that almost 43,000 people have died of epidemic and malnutrition since they first began arriving in Goma two months ago, fleeing ethnic carnage.

The death rate has declined considerably in treatment centres installed in the camps," Michel Engelbert, a doctor with the Belgian wing of Medicine Sans Frontiers (MSF: Doctors Without Borders), said.

"But many people refuse or are too weak to come to us and they die in their tents," he added.

The frightful spectacle of hundreds of corpses massed along tracks is over, but bodies are still brought each day to the metal road between the Kibumba and Katakame camps north of Goma, the largest in the region.

Lorry convoys, organised by the Goma humanitarian organisations collect the bodies, most of them wrapped in woven mats or blankets and some — the children — in large plastic bags.

Zairean gravediggers unceremoniously bury some of them on the spot, in mass graves dug around the camps, while others are taken to the Goma cemetery, the far side of the town's airport.

## Kohl rules out aid cut after Russian pullout

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl has ruled out any reduction in aid to Russia after the pullout of all former Soviet troops from Germany, in an interview with the Russian daily newspaper Izvestia.

"There is no way that Germany's interest in close ties with Russia could diminish after the withdrawal of Russian troops," said Mr. Kohl, adding that the pullout would rather usher in a new age in bilateral relations.

Mr. Kohl and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will attend ceremonies in Berlin Wednesday, marking the end of the 49-year presence of former Soviet troops in what was East Germany.

Germany is at the forefront of Western support for Russian economic reforms, Mr. Kohl said. "Not because Russian troops are (in Germany), but because we rather believe that this contribution is a good investment in a long-term partnership."

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said in an interview published Sunday that German economic aid to Russia would in the future hinge on Russian cooperation in battling trafficking in nuclear substances.

Mr. Kohl noted that cooperation in a number of areas between the two countries had intensified over the last years and said he had no doubt that it could be strengthened further.

Mr. Kohl also came out in favour of "maximum integration of Russia in already existing international financial and economic bodies."

Moscow "must as soon as possible become a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade," he said.

Mr. Kohl — tanned, feisty and eager to become Germany's longest-serving post-war chancellor — kicked off his re-election campaign Thursday by warning of a Communist threat should he lose.

A vote for the Social Democrats in the Oct. 16 parliamentary elections could be a vote for "the party of barbed wire and Berlin Wall," Mr. Kohl said.

The liberal Social Democrats are the main opposition to Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats. Mr. Kohl was attacking their coalition government in the East German state of Saxony-Anhalt that depends on support from the Party of Democratic Socialism. The PDS is the party of former East German Communists.

## U.S. team 'encouraged' by Sinn Fein

BELFAST (R) — An Irish-American peace delegation to Northern Ireland said Friday that talks with the IRA's political wing Fein would advance the cause of peace in the province "in a very constructive direction."

"We hope that the input that we have given will move that process forward," delegation leader Bruce Morrison told journalists. "We believe that it will and we are

very encouraged by what we heard here today that the process is moving in a very constructive direction."

Mr. Morrison, whose group is pressing for an Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire, was speaking after the 2½ hours of talks with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and other Republican leaders in Belfast.

In a brief statement to reporters Mr. Adams said the

talks had made a significant contribution to the quest for peace in Northern Ireland but would not comment on widespread speculation of an imminent IRA ceasefire.

Newspaper reports have speculated for weeks that the IRA is considering calling a temporary halt to its 25-year battle against British rule in Northern Ireland following peace overtures from the Irish and British governments.

## Albania: Greece ordered mass expulsion

TIRANA (R) — Albanian migrants were reported to be returning from Greece in large numbers Friday in what Tirana called a mass expulsion ordered by Athens.

The Albanian government says Greece has expelled nearly 16,000 Albanians in the 11 days since Aug. 15 as a retaliatory measure for the trial in Tirana of five ethnic Greek citizens accused of spying for Athens.

Albanian border authorities Friday reported a steady stream of migrants coming back from Greece, where thousands go to work illegally, and said the flow was much greater than normal.

Greece, which has denounced the espionage trial as a political stunt to repress the ethnic-Greek community, normally returns up to a few hundred illegal aliens to Albania each day.

But according to Albanian police officials in the border zone about 2,000 were sent back Thursday alone.

"Today we see a lot of people still coming," said Petri Bazelli, customs chief in Biliisht, in the Devoll district.

"Recently there has been a figure of between 1,200 to 2,000 a day," he added.

The Albanian state news agency (ATA) Thursday said the number of those deported from Greece over three main southern border points had risen to 15,763 since Aug. 15, when the trial began.

The agency also accused by Greek police confiscating money from the expelled Albanians in an attempt to put pressure on Albania, where impoverished families rely on remittances from their menfolk.

"The rule is, no drachmas must go to Albania. Accordingly, police take the refugees' money by force," ATA said.

Some 350,000 Albanians are believed to work in Greece, sending back money to support their families.

Although thousands are regularly expelled, the number remains relatively constant because others cross the mountainous border illegally to take their place.

In Athens Wednesday, government sources said Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and President Constantine Karamanlis discussed toughening border controls and stepping up expulsions.

They said the rate of expulsions was likely to accelerate next week, coinciding with the conclusion of the espionage trial in Tirana.

In a related crisis last year Greece expelled 22,000 Albanians in less than a week.

The five on trial are members of the ethnic Greek organisation Omónia, who were arrested in April.

## Murayama wraps up first-ever Hanoi visit

HANOI, Vietnam (Agencies) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama wrapped up his groundbreaking visit to Vietnam Friday after hearing more pleas from Hanoi leaders for Japanese aid to make Vietnamese "an affluent people."

Mr. Murayama paid his respects Friday morning at the Soviet-style mausoleum of Vietnamese revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh, then met President Le Duc Anh and Communist Party Secretary General Do Muoi.

"We are working hard to build the country that Ho Chi Minh wanted: An affluent nation, an affluent people," Mr. Anh told Mr. Murayama, according to Japanese officials who attended the meeting.

Mr. Muoi asked Mr. Murayama whether he thought generous Japanese aid was responsible for economic booms in South East Asian nations such as Thailand and Malaysia.

Mr. Murayama fudged on his answer, but Mr. Muoi drove the point home, saying Japan should increase its \$600 million in annual aid if it wants to see a prosperous Vietnam.

Mr. Murayama is only the second Japanese leader to visit Vietnam and the first

since 1967, when Prime Minister Eisaku Sato stopped briefly in South Vietnam.

After visiting the Philippines and Vietnam, Mr. Murayama now heads for Malaysia and Singapore, the final two stops on his four-nation tour of South East Asia.

As a member of the Soviet Bloc, Vietnam stood against U.S.-allied Japan in the cold war. But now Vietnamese leaders are making it no secret that Japan is their model for economic development.

"Japan was also in difficult straits after the war, but Japanese were... diligent and worked hard. Vietnam must learn from that," Mr. Muoi said, referring to World War II.

At a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet Thursday night, Mr. Murayama said the poor but bustling streets of Hanoi reminded him of the early days of Japan's own rise to economic superpower status.

In remarks that must have been a relief to Mr. Murayama, whose country brutally occupied Vietnam in the war, Mr. Muoi said Vietnam must "forget the past."

Mr. Murayama invited Mr. Muoi to visit Tokyo next year, and the Vietnamese leader accepted. He would be the first secretary-general to

visit Japan.

Japan is eager to deepen dialogue with South East Asia and build a new era of partnership, Mr. Murayama was cited as saying ahead of his arrival in Malaysia.

Mr. Murayama, in an interview with Malaysia's Business Times financial daily published Friday, said he was convinced he should be forward-looking in his foreign policy on South East Asia.

"I am eager to deepen the policy dialogue with South East Asia, ASEAN countries in particular, entering this new era, and to build a future-oriented partnership for further progress," Mr. Murayama was quoted saying.

"This is the understanding that I bring to this trip," said Mr. Murayama as he prepares to fly in later Friday from Vietnam for a three-day tour on the penultimate leg of his eight-day swing of four South East Asian nations.

He is to hold talks with Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohammad and have an audience with King Tuanku Ja'afar Tuanku Abdul Rahman Saturday.

The 70-year-old Murayama, Japan's first Socialist prime minister in 47 years, leaves Kuala Lumpur for Singapore Sunday.



A Cuban man says goodbye to his son and wife in Cofimbar, Cuba before leaving in his raft to try and get to the U.S. Heavy rains reportedly dissuaded most boatpeople from leaving Cuba (AFP photo)

## Blood samples may play big part in Simpson trial

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police lab technician Andrea Mazzola's third crime scene was a big one: The O.J. Simpson double-murder case.

Blood samples she soaked up may play a big role in the former football star's trial, and the Simpson camp is doing everything it can to show rookies like Ms. Mazzola had no business being involved.

Defence Attorney Robert Shapiro told the Associated Press that DNA tests showing a genetic match between crime-scene blood and Simpson's blood may be flawed because the original samples were improperly handled by inexperienced police technicians.

"When a lab analyses evidence, and they come back and present the opinion that

there is a match of blood, they are relying in fact on everything that was done before," he said. "If it wasn't done properly, most experts would not want to stake their professional reputations and opinions on samples which were not properly collected."

Ms. Mazzola wasn't the only one whose credentials were challenged. Another technician has only been doing DNA testing for six months and acknowledged he mislabeled a blood sample.

Also, the AP has reported that the victims' bodies were picked up by a temporary coroner's employee in a government work programme.

The defence this week pounced on the experience of the technicians in a hearing that actually had nothing to do with the subject. Superior

Court Judge Lance Ito, who was ambushed at the line of questioning, is to rule on whether certain blood samples must be shared with the defence so it can conduct its own DNA tests.

Simpson, 47, has been charged with the June 12 slayings of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. He has pleaded innocent.

Ms. Mazzola testified she started working in the police crime lab in January. Before the Simpson case, she had collected blood at two crime scenes and said she had "zero" experience at scenes where she had primary responsibility for evidence gathering.

Ms. Mazzola collected what may be the most vital evidence in the case: Blood

drops leading away from the victims' slashed bodies. Prosecutors alleged that blood came from Simpson's cut hand as he fled. Preliminary DNA tests on the blood make the genetic match to Simpson, prosecutors have said in court papers.

In other developments, the Los Angeles District Attorney said Wednesday he was using a grand jury to question Simpson's friend Al Cowlings.

A grand jury is a panel of citizens who review evidence and decide whether a case should go to trial and, if so, which charges should be filed.

But in this case, district attorney Gil Garcetti indicated he was searching for more evidence to use against Simpson.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
 Published 1993  
 جريدة الجordanية السياسية المستقلة اليومية المنشورة بالانجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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 Facsimile: 670413

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

### Clashes on Iraq

THE END of the blockade of Aqaba mounted by U.S. forces serves both as a lesson in power politics as well as a signal that the blockade on Iraq will soon follow suit. It is to be emphasized here that the blockade of Aqaba is the radius of a blockade of the so-called Multi-National Force. Jordan's refusal to join the coalition of forces that were assembled to force Iraq out of Kuwait. On the other hand, the U.S. and its allies saw to it that the blockade would only be lifted after Jordan signed the Washington Declaration. The lesson must not have eluded suspects at home and elsewhere. What must not pass also unnoticed is that Jordan has manoeuvred itself very skillfully out of the maze of the Iraq debacle and put itself once more in a secure place both regionally and internationally.

While purports of old-age politics might still think they can say no in this new age of a uni-polar world, pragmatists should neither succumb to the dictates of the neo-sayers nor should they totally submit to the will of the big powers. Jordan had to bargain hard for lifting the blockade and even harder for the benefits that came out of the Washington Declaration.

Now after Jordan has been freed of the shackles of the Aqaba blockade and the pressures associated with the peace process, work will have to continue on rebuilding the country's infrastructure and preparing for the changes that will be brought by peace. Of great importance to Jordan will be the lifting of sanctions on Iraq. Once that is accomplished, Jordan's most important trading partner will have been restored. It is therefore of immense importance to Jordan that every effort to rehabilitate Iraq should be encouraged and nurtured. With full friendship restored with the U.S. and when the signing of the Washington Declaration is better placed to play its role, Jordan is not only important for its own sake but also for the sake of the peace and the vision of a new and better Middle East.

### U.N. panel finds Israel not living up to obligations

(Continued from page 2)

Implement article 4, which entailed ending illegal and prohibited settlements, and which would have been a major step towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The committee "expressed its satisfaction for numerous measures taken in Australia, in the consideration of the report, to improve relations between all groups and to improve the situation of the indigenous people."

"The Council for the Aboriginal Reconciliation Act 1991 was welcomed as a measure of great potential interest. However, the situation of the indigenous people remained a concern, despite the efforts aimed at remedying the injustices inherited from the past," the panel said.

### Iran: U.S. and Israel

...what, said ... States, ... of Iran, ... day" over ...

## Jordanian Perspective

# Peace dividends determine public stand

By Dr. Musa Kellani

OPINION POLLS are indeed new to Jordan and Jordanians; we have been hearing of them from Europe, the United States and more recently from Israel. But in the last two years, we have had our own.

Given that the so-called opinion poll culture is relatively strange to us, we cannot but keep an open mind towards the findings of the latest survey conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan, particularly on such an important issue as the support of our people for the historic moves undertaken by our leadership towards ending nearly half a century of tension and conflict that have plagued our lives and preoccupied each and every decision that the country had to take.

Of course, there are many ways of looking at the findings of the opinion poll. Those who found the results of the poll reassuring could vouch for its accuracy and preciseness while those who did not like the findings could cast serious questions over how scientific it was, how the target audience was selected, and how questions were phrased, and, above all, whether there was any element of fear involved on the part of the people who answered the questions.

Responding to such possible criticism, the Centre for Strategic Studies assures us that scientific approaches guided the survey throughout, there was no coercion involved, the target audience was selected in proportion to the respective governorate's share in the overall population of the country and that the target audience was assured of the confidentiality of their answers on an individual basis. The centre also assures us that the demographic spread of those surveyed was "well representative" of the Jordanian society in terms of ethnic origins.

Taking these assurances at face value, we find the results of the poll credible, to say the least.

It is not strange at all to note that the poll found that more than 80 per cent of Jordanians support the Washington Declaration and that a large segment of them as well as those who oppose the Jordanian-Israeli peace moves do believe that Jordan was able to secure its territorial

and water rights and security objectives and improve its economy as a result of making peace with Israel.

It is the latter part of the poll that is very interesting and significant. More than half of the 14 per cent who reject the Washington Declaration believe that the Kingdom would be successful in its quest to regain its land and water rights and benefit economically from its negotiations with Israel.

What does that exactly mean? To me, it means that more than half of those who oppose the Jordanian moves to advance the Kingdom's quest for a negotiated settlement with Israel concede that Jordan was acting to protect its own national interests when it decided to break the barriers of hostility with Israel.

Those who oppose the Washington Declaration may not like it, but they do admit the validity of the Kingdom's argument that it needed to move, and move fast at that, to safeguard its national interests lest it might be left behind in the 34-month-old peace process. They also admit that Jordan is in a good position to achieve its goals of regaining its territory and water usurped by Israel and assure itself of security and stability that are vital for national progress at any level.

If one were to go deeper into the figures derived from the poll, it is found that it provides a five-per cent margin of error. That would bring down the support for the Washington Declaration to 76 per cent. The refusal by five per cent of those polled to answer the question whether they supported or opposed the declaration could also be taken as a voice of opposition. That would bring down the net figure of support to around 72 per cent.

Reflecting that percentage on the 80 members of the Lower House of Parliament would mean 56 or 57 deputies. We already have 55 of them issuing public statements in full endorsement of the Washington Declaration. So, on that level also it could be seen that the poll's findings are very close to reality.

Equally interesting is the relatively low percentage of those who oppose the Washington Declaration based on a belief that the peace process could not lead to a just

settlement of the conflict. Only 9.6 per cent said their opposition was based on such a belief. Again, only 8.4 per cent said they rejected the Washington Declaration on religious grounds — meaning they do not accept co-existence with the Jewish state. Then again, that is part of democracy and everyone has the right to express his or her opinion and viewpoint.

The overriding factor, however, is the fact that many tend to look at the "Palestinian component" of the Jordanian society as the determining factor and shake their heads. To those critics, the answer is simple: Jordan cannot be expected to be more Palestinian than the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which represents the Palestinian voice and leads the Palestinian quest for political rights and independence. Jordan stands ready to help the Palestinians but not assume the leadership of the Palestinian people. The Kingdom, as an independent, sovereign political entity, is moving ahead with sure steps to take care of its own interests while assured that the rights of the Palestinian people are similarly taken care of by their own leadership, the PLO.

Just as Jordan would not allow the PLO or any other party to determine the Kingdom's political course and future, it would also not interfere with the efforts of the PLO or anyone else. That is the bottom line and it has to be from this vantage point that the results of the opinion poll should be seen.

The Jordanian moves should be seen as part of an overall picture of a peace process where the concerned leaderships are moving ahead with the rights of their constituencies very much their priorities.

The net picture that emerges from the poll is quite comforting. But, a note of caution is indeed warranted. There are no constants in public opinion. The dynamics of the peace process and the pace with which it moves ahead and whether it brings around visible changes to the life of people would eventually determine the status of support among our people for the courageous steps our leaders have undertaken.

## LETTERS

### Still not ready for tourism?

To the Editor:

WITH TOURISM on everyone's mind, I feel encouraged to write this letter. On Monday, Aug. 15, I took — as many times before — visitors to Jerash to enjoy the beauty and magnificence of the Roman city.

Being a very hot day, we naturally went to the Jerash resthouse to refresh ourselves.

Alas, the ladies' toilet was in a deplorable state. Is it really so difficult to have someone responsible to check on its cleanliness? One cistern had its wire broken, which operates the flush, and was therefore out of order. The other three were blocked!

As most foreign visitors do not know that our water system does not flush toilet paper down the drain, would it not be an advantage to print some labels with such a warning and pin these on the inside of the doors? The English language would be probably the most commonly understood.

The second shock came — when I ordered three cans of soda water and had to pay JD5.400 — that makes each can worth JD1.800 — and placed in front of us without a glass or straw, which we had to ask for. Every store in Amman sells soda water cans at 300 fils!

Mrs. R. Ghul, Amman.

### An update of the 'update'

To the Editor:

THE ARTICLE of "Young medical student brings home update on AIDS" in your paper of Aug. 23 was hardly an update. According to the "National Geographic" issue vol. 186 No. 1 of July 1994, the number of HIV infected U.S. residents is far more than 250,000 "today more than one million U.S. residents and as many as 21 million people have been infected with HIV."

The article fell short of emphasising the alarming speed at which the virus is spreading in the world. In many parts of Uganda, about one in five adults is infected and the disease is also spreading vigorously in India. The Harvard-based Global AIDS Policy Coalition estimates that "by the year 2000 as many as 110 million people worldwide will have been infected with HIV" (National Geographic issue vol. 186 No. 1).

Many Jordanians seem to associate the epidemic with the West, mainly the United States, although the centres for new cases that exist in Jordan. I wonder how many Jordanians are informed about ways of protecting themselves against the virus. I also wonder if any measures are taken by the government, to control against the carrying of HIV by temporary residents in Jordan and whether proper blood screening is made.

Instead of referring to AIDS as if it does not concern us, we should take a careful examination of the situation in Jordan and demand serious action.

Rana Al Zoubi, Amman.

### A wrong measure

To the Editor:

I HEARTILY endorse the letter from Kirk Albrecht about higher fees for tourists in Petra, (Jordan Times, Aug. 21). The Ministry of Tourism and the Cabinet have only seen the wealthy tourists and groups coming in. They did not consider the "haversack brigade?" These are usually young people with little money who want to see the world on a shoestring. They manage by "roughing it" and relying on lifts. To be then faced with an entrance fee of JD 20 per head is a small in the face, and will make them feel unwelcome — or is that the idea?

Likewise what happens to afternoon arrivals who have a limited time in Jordan, when 1,500 people have already gone down the Siq? Are they to be told they cannot go into Petra after looking forward to seeing it for perhaps a lifetime? It seems a lot of people are going to be disappointed. As Mr. Albrecht said, it could all backfire. The Minister of Tourism should think again. His measure is wrong. JD10 would be quite enough.

Miss Chris Larter, Amman.



M. KAHIL

## Walesa faces struggle to hold on to power

By Timothy Heritage, Renter

WARSAW — Lech Walesa says he never loses, but the winning streak of the shipyard electrician who became Poland's president is in danger of coming to an end.

Five years after guiding the Solidarity movement to power after nearly five decades of Communist rule, his popularity has sunk so low that he trailed former Communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski in a recent opinion poll.

Many Poles, angered by what they regard as Mr. Walesa's authoritarian manner and unkept promises, have written off his chances in presidential elections due late next year.

But even at 50, Mr. Walesa remains at his best when he faces a challenge. He says Poles who once saw him as a national hero will support him yet again.

"I cannot lose (the presidential elections) because I have more proposals than the others. I have a concept and I know how to implement it," Mr. Walesa told Polish radio in July.

"I know where I make mistakes and I know that I will be evaluated in a fair way. That is why I do not take such a possibility into consideration. I never lose," he said.

That is not the opinion of Aleksander Kwasniewski, the 39-year-old pretender to Mr. Walesa's crown and leader of the Democratic Left Alliance which succeeded the Communist Party.

"The era of 'politicians-symbols' is coming to an end and now the time has

come for professionals in all spheres of life, including the presidency," Mr. Kwasniewski told Reuters in an interview this spring.

"Walesa was a logical product of a concrete situation and even though history will pass a favourable verdict on him, his current actions are destabilising and destructive," he said.

Defeat for Mr. Walesa would close an era in which he has rarely been far from events shaping Poland's destiny since he took charge of a strike at the Gdansk shipyard in August 1980.

In the following years he won the Nobel peace prize and played a major role in the break-up of the former Soviet bloc.

Defeat for Mr. Walesa would leave Poland without a single former Solidarity leader in a major position of power.

His predicament shows how far the political ground has shifted in Poland since Solidarity editor Tadeusz Mazowiecki was installed as prime minister on August 24, 1989, to lead the first Solidarity-dominated government.

On that historic day, the left-wing's future looked bleak and most Poles were united behind Solidarity.

Since then, Solidarity has ceased to be an all-embracing political movement and gone back to its roots as a trade union. Its former leaders have split into numerous political camps.

Two parties with roots in Communist times, including the Democratic Left Alliance, cashed in on the divisions and widespread dissatisfaction with economic reforms by winning elections last September and forming a coalition gov-

ernment.

Some of the criticism for the hardships under reforms has deflected onto Mr. Walesa since he was elected president for a five-year term in December 1990.

Critics say he is dogmatic, authoritarian and power-hungry and that his domineering personality and working-class background make him unsuitable to be a president. Ordinary people accuse him of failing to carry out promises.

"He has not kept his promises. He made us believe Poland could be a new Japan full of prosperity, but this has not happened," said one middle-aged office worker.

Other critics say Mr. Walesa has deliberately stirred trouble for the government by using his presidential right to veto government decisions, including blocking the appointment of a left-wing economist as finance minister earlier this year.

"October 1989 and November 1989 marked the height of Walesa's popularity in Poland and around the world," wrote Jaroslaw Kurski, Mr. Walesa's former spokesman and later a critic.

"But in the months that followed, Mr. Walesa's popularity started to slip as his myth was placed under close scrutiny. Suddenly he was no longer a political arbiter but the centre of conflict," he wrote.

Mr. Walesa's work, saying he "Poland's interest portrayed him as a fatherly figure guiding his country towards democracy and a healthy economy. "I do not want to be a

leader or a dictator, but only to be effective in my work and decision-making, in establishing democracy," he said after more than two years in office.

He ignores Poles which suggest only about eight per cent of people regard him as the best candidate for president. Mr. Kwasniewski regularly has more than 20 per cent support.

A poll by the Oboz public television research centre in May showed 37 per cent of respondents approved of Mr. Jaruzelski, the man who declared martial law in December 1981 to try to crush Solidarity. It said only 20 per cent approved of Mr. Walesa.

Mr. Walesa's position is made more difficult by the fact that the divisions among the former Solidarity leaders have left him isolated, with no major political party behind him.

Commentators say Mr. Walesa's tactics in the presidential elections, for which he is so far the only declared candidate, are likely to be to attack the left-wing and try to win over ordinary workers by showing sympathy for some of their demands.

His proven abilities as a fiery public orator, his wily political skills and his ability to talk to workers suggest no rival should underestimate him — whatever opinion polls say.

"The forces which fought for a free Poland now have to find even more strength in the struggle which is being personified by democratic left," Mr. Walesa said in an apparent rally against the left-wing. "I think we will all come to our senses," he said.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Poll shows Rabin challenger on rise

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, his popularity apparently hurt by a new tax proposal, would face a close fight from his top challenger if elections were held today, a leading Israeli pollster said on Friday. The Dahaf survey of 514 Israelis, conducted in Tuesday and Wednesday, gave Mr. Rabin support from 45 per cent, while opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu of the rightist Likud party was given support from 44 per cent, and 11 per cent had no response. Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper, which published the survey, quoted pollster Mina Zemach as saying Mr. Rabin's popularity was apparently harmed by events surrounding his surprise decision to impose a capital gains tax on share profits on the Tel Aviv stock exchange from Jan. 1. Asked to explain his sudden change of mind last week, Mr. Rabin said prime ministers should not be expected to tell the whole truth when speaking of a devaluation of new tax policy. Israeli elections are scheduled for November 1996.

### Morocco invites Rabin to economic summit

TEL AVIV (AFP) — King Hassan II of Morocco on Friday invited Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to an economic summit to Casablanca, the premier's office said. An envoy of the king delivered the invitation, the office said, without naming the official. The Oct. 31-Nov. 1 summit is being held under the patronage of U.S. President Bill Clinton and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin, whose countries sponsor the Middle East peace process. The unprecedented economic summit of North African and Middle Eastern countries, to be chaired by King Hassan II, has been organised by the World Economic Forum, which meets each year in the Swiss resort of Davos. Earlier on Friday, Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said he had been invited to Tunis, along with several Arab ministers, for a conference on protecting the Mediterranean in early November.

### Small plane crashes in India, killing 4

NEW DELHI (AP) — A small aircraft crashed in northern India, killing four people, including an official of the federal environmental ministry, a spokesman said Friday. The accident occurred Friday night on a flight from Bhopal to New Delhi, and the plane was found upside down in a flooded farm field in upper Madhya Pradesh state, the spokesman said. The fatalities included the ministry's additional private secretary, Ashokan Nair, an unidentified engineer, and a pilot and co-pilot, the spokesman said on condition of anonymity. Nair was returning from Bhopal, where he had made arrangements for Environmental Minister Kamal Nath to tour the state Saturday. The cause of the crash — which crushed the unidentified aircraft — was not immediately known, police said.

### Body of German in 'flying boat' crash found

ANKARA (R) — Police have found the body of a German man, missing after his 'flying boat' plunged into the Mediterranean off the southern Turkish coast three days ago. A police official in Antalya said on Friday the body of Ralph Odenthal, 38, was discovered after it washed up on shore about four kilometres from the scene of the accident. Odenthal and compatriot Martin Schmidt plunged into the sea from 100 metres after their boat, suspended like a gondola from a triangular glider wing, got caught by a sudden change of wind. Schmidt died on his way to hospital.

### Army rescues Lebanon's tourist sites

BEIRUT (AFP) — Hundreds of Lebanese army recruits, armed with shovels and rakes, have come to the rescue of the country's tourist sites which are overrun with weeds. Around 300 recruits kicked off the campaign on Thursday in Baalbek, a stronghold in eastern Lebanon of Hizbollah, the army command told AFP. Under a scorching sun, they raked the temples of Jupiter and Bacchus. The clean-up operation will take 1,500 recruits to Phoenician, Roman and Ottoman ruins in Byblos, north of the capital, the Tyre hippodrome in southern Lebanon, and ancient sites newly uncovered in downtown Beirut. Local tourists have taken a renewed interest in the sites but the country still awaits the large-scale foreign tourism which it attracted before the 1975-1990 war.

### Israel Military Industries plans 1,200 layoffs

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Military Industries (IMI) plans to lay off 1,200 of its 5,000-strong work force because of a drop in sales, the Haaretz daily newspaper said on Friday. Since IMI was converted from an arm of the defence ministry to a state company in 1990 of \$79 million compared to an operating loss of \$87 million in 1992. IMI officials were not available for comment. The newspaper said the government was going to help the company cover retirement expenses for the laid-off workers. It said a government committee checking the IMI's strategic plan was considering closing the company and spreading its functions among other security bodies, but this was unlikely. IMI, hard hit by post-cold war defence cuts, said its work force dropped to 5,620 in 1993 from 7,228 in 1992 — compared with 11,150 employed in 1990.

### Suspicious fires ravage Istanbul forests

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Fires believed to have been started by Kurdish rebels have devastated large tracts of forest around Istanbul, city officials said Friday. Turkish authorities suspect Kurdish guerrillas lit the fires deliberately in revenge for the army's alleged scorched-earth policy in rebellious Anatolia. The fires broke out at Kemerburgaz, on the European side of Istanbul, and on the Isle of Burgaz, in the Sea of Marmara. On Thursday and Sunday, fires devastated woodland Anadolukavagi and Kilyos, on the Asian side of the Bosphorus. About 600 hectares have burned in the past fortnight, most of it around Piyazkoy, on the Asian side of Istanbul, on Aug. 15. Authorities said Abdullah Ocaltan, head of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), threatened in October to set fire to forests in western Turkey this summer in retaliation for what he called the army's destruction of land in mainly Kurdish southeastern Anatolia. PKK, which heads a Kurdish insurrection centred in southeastern Turkey, said the army burned thousands of hectares to prevent guerrillas from hiding there.

### Japan cites terms for Security Council seat

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan is willing to become a permanent U.N. Security Council member but wants international support as the voice of non-nuclear power in the body, press reports Friday quoted Foreign Minister Yohei Kono as saying. "Japan should not avoid its responsibility in the international community," Mr. Kono said in a speech Thursday at a hotel in Hiroshima, according to major dailies including the Mainichi and Asahi Shimbun. The Mainichi said it was the first time that the foreign minister clearly showed Japan's willingness to become a permanent member. He stated three conditions before Japan joins the member. He stated Britain, Russia, France and China as United States, Japan, Russia, France and China as permanent Security Council members, including a world consensus which supports the inclusion of non-nuclear countries such as Japan. The only country ever to be attacked with nuclear weapons, Japan is also seeking support from fellow Asian countries that pacifist ideas should be reflected in the United Nations, and a consensus among the Japanese people for its council membership.

## U.N. to reduce Somalia force

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council decided Thursday to cut the number of U.N. troops in Somalia by 1,500 and did not rule out a total withdrawal if a political settlement were not reached soon.

The decision came after gunmen believed to be members of General Mohammed Farah Aided's militia massacred seven Indian peacekeepers and wounded nine others Monday.

In an unanimous statement read by Chairman Yuli Vorontsov, the Security Council said the killings were a "premeditated attack" and members approved the reduction that will bring the force down to 17,200 men.

Mr. Vorontsov also raised concerns over the lack of progress in peace talks between Somali clans, stressing that continued international support and the peacekeeping mission was conditioned on reaching a political settlement.

In a non-binding statement, the council supported Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's recommendation to reduce the size of the Somalia mission from 18,700 troops to 17,200 by the end of September, and to 15,000 by late October.

"The nature and duration of the international support and resources...including the continuing presence of peacekeepers...depend very much on the resolve of the Somali parties to achieve political compromise," the Security Council said.

The council expressed grave concern regarding the deteriorating security situation and deplored attacks and harassment of U.N. peacekeepers and other international personnel.

The New York Times reporting Friday the United States plans to withdraw the last 80 U.S. diplomats and Marines from Somalia by mid-September because of rising violence and dim prospects for peace there.

Quoting unnamed State Department officials, the Times said the Clinton administration saw little progress in peace talks between rival Somali clans, and believes the usefulness of the U.S. presence in Somalia has expired.

"We don't see any sign...of a breakthrough in the next several months and the security risk doesn't seem to merit the cost to stay anymore," a senior State Department official told the daily.

Marines were first sent to Somalia in December 1992. At the height of the operation there were 26,000 U.S. troops deployed in the Horn of Africa state. The last combat forces left in March.

A Somali member of Swedish aid agency was killed Wednesday by unidentified

gunmen in Mogadishu, an aid official said.

Suleiman M. Suleiman had worked with the Swedish non-governmental organisation (NGO) Swedish Church Relief for about 10 years.

He was murdered while he returned to his house, said Suleiman, an official of another Swedish NGO, International Aid Sweden (IAS).

He said the victim was a friend of a Swedish nurse working for IAS, who was freed Tuesday, 16 days after being kidnapped in Mogadishu by armed men suspected of belonging to Gen. Aided's clan.

When she was told the new, the 28-year-old nurse, Lena Thelander, delayed a press conference that she was to give Thursday afternoon in Nairobi, where she went after her release.

Apparently in good health, she later talked to Swedish television about her kidnapping ordeal. "I didn't think I was going to be released, I was preparing myself for death. Even if a ransom had been paid, I believed they were going to kill me."

The U.N. special envoy to Somalia said on Wednesday that U.N. troops would respond forcefully to future attacks of the kind that killed seven Indian peacekeepers last week.

Ambassador Victor Ghebo denounced Monday's clash, the worst between U.N. peacekeepers and Somali gunmen since U.S. and other western troops pulled out in March, as a "despicable crime."

Mr. Ghebo said in a statement that the Indian peacekeepers had come to help.

"The victims came to Somalia to help the people of this country to reestablish peace and order, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to begin the task of reconstruction and development," he added.

"This situation cannot and should not be permitted to continue. Future attacks or harassment will be promptly, firmly and decisively responded to," he said, blaming "criminal elements."

The Indians were killed by militants firing anti-aircraft guns and mortars in an ambush in Burleego, 100 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu. At least six others were wounded.

U.N. military spokesman Major Richard McDonald told Reuters a battle raged for seven hours in the area.

Maj. McDonald described the ambush as "unprovoked and carefully co-ordinated." The militants were so well-armed that it was unlikely they were bandits, he added.

Maj. McDonald said reports indicated that there were other Somalis killed at the ambush scene.

## PFLP scolds Sudan, vows to back Carlos

BEIRUT (AP) — A Palestinian group has reportedly castigated Sudan for turning the Venezuelan-born Carlos the Jackal over to France and pledged to support him "at all costs."

"What the Sudanese government did is a revolting immorality that constitutes a betrayal to the traditions of Islam and the Arabs," Salah Salah of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) was quoted Friday in the conservative newspaper Al Diyar as saying.

Mr. Salah, longtime senior aide to the PFLP's Damascus-based leader George Habash, did not spell out how would the group help Carlos, who was taken to Paris Aug. 15 after his capture in Sudan. Carlos faces several murder charges in France.

It was with the PFLP that Carlos, 44, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, gained notoriety in the 1970s, teaming up with the group's foreign operations bureau chief, the late Wadia Haddad, to stage the decade's most spectacular attacks.

"We are bound to back Carlos at all costs because he has given so much to the Palestinian cause," said Mr. Salah.

The daily said it interviewed Mr. Salah at his base in Beirut's Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camp several days ago.

Haddad and Carlos orchestrated the 1976 hijacking of an Air France jetliner to En-



VICTIM OF VIOLENCE IN BOMBAY: The wife and family members of slain Bharatiya Janata Party leader Ramdas Nayak weep before his body on Friday, one day after he was assassinated by unidentified gunmen in the western port city of Bombay. The city, India's commercial capital, remained gripped by a general strike on Friday to protest the killing (see page 4) (AFP photo)

## Amman Cultural Meeting controversial from within

By Angham Tamimi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With Jordanian and other Arab participants, the third Amman cultural meeting dealing with the cultural movement in Jordan has its cultural theme as "the role of cultural press in developing the criticism movement."

Among those presenting working papers to the meeting which started Monday and ends Saturday, were critic Dr. Hussein Jum'a, poet Taher Riyadhi, and writer Ramadan Rawashdeh, winner of 1994 Najib Mahfouz Prize.

In his paper, Dr. Jum'a surveyed the importance of "Afkar" magazine, which is published by the Jordanian government, its role, on the cultural, intellectual and creative life in the Kingdom, and the Jordanian cultural message it takes to Arab and foreign countries.

Dr. Jum'a believed that Afkar magazine supports the creative effort and stimulates hidden talents in order to help develop the cultural movement in Jordan and to objectively criticise its products.

By embracing all kinds of art — from the simplest sayings to the most complicated long studies including poetry, lyrical ballads, novels, plays and criticism — Afkar magazine aims at culturally and mentally educating its readers, said Dr. Jum'a's working paper.

Afkar documents the Arab World's suffering in spite of the difficult circumstances faced by its issuance and concentrated every now and then on living through a democratic stage that rejects intimidation

and opens to various cultural trends and movements, said the paper. It is an honest means to transfer information, to spread the national original culture, and to lighten up serious issues most essential to all people, it said.

Dr. Jum'a said the magazine enabled readers to form a cultural background to confront regional challenges, to stop Westernisation and to build a balanced human being capable of facing the crisis of the modern era.

The task of criticism is very sensitive. It is the power that motivates creativity. But "the first 84 issues of Afkar did not deal with criticism seriously although it became a tradition until the issue 106 when Mu'nis Razzaz became its chief editor, who stopped such a trend," said Dr. Jum'a.

"The 85-to-106 issues were rich with deep-rooted studies and valuable critical sense. Some of the issues deserve to be reread."

In short, Afkar enriched, consciously or unconsciously, the criticism movement and helped raise the level of artistic and intellectual literature, he argued.

Although Dr. Jum'a's research introduced a thorough survey about the role of Afkar presentation, left a lot to be desired in terms of presentation and pinning-down the audience.

The Poet Riyadhi, 38, in his testimony paper, introduced his career, and his attempts to be a poet.

"My first collection of poems was published in 1933; the second 'Mud Rites' was published in 1935, and the 'Third Crippled Stick' in 1938," said the poet. "But none of my works was studied by Jordanian critics. The

press articles written about them were shallow."

Mr. Riyadhi accused Jordanian critics of shallowness and subjectivity. "There is no poetry criticism in Jordan," the poet told the Jordan Times. "I bet that there is no Jordanian critic who can write a serious critical study about any poem. All the journalistic articles are documentary. They have no sense of research that may enrich the creative movement."

Such open criticism was contained in his paper and the main complaint of Mr. Riyadhi was that he tried to reveal part of the truth but no one seemed to understand him.

Because his paper attacked critics in Jordan by using what many in the audience saw as impolite phrases, and he left the hall before discussions began on his work, Mr. Riyadhi came under heavy criticism.

Writer Rawashdeh, 31, also drew controversy by accusing Jordanian critics of neglecting his work. "There are factors vague to us," he said. "We do not know on what scale Jordanian critics base their judgement," because he drew a contrast between critics' opinions on his work Al Hamrawi before and after it won the Najib Mahfouz Award, Mr. Ramadan also came under attack for veering away from the central theme of the gathering.

Nevertheless, all Jordanian writers attending the meeting agreed that critics used to be shallow in their judgement and that they do not study any piece of art thoroughly to the extent that makes them able to write about it.

But even now, the debate about whether or not music is permitted in Islam has not been settled.

## Israelis wound 3 in Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

"A single incident could turn into a deep crisis that would explode on both sides, endangering the peace process," he said. In that case "the former model" — Israel's occupation of Gaza — would be relevant."

His remarks conflicted with the assessments of most Israeli politicians who have expressed satisfaction with the autonomy instituted in mid-May.

"It is clear that the road is still long, but the situation on the ground and the progress in negotiations are certainly encouraging," Uri Savir, director-general of the foreign ministry, said Monday.

"If there is an escalation in attacks and the (Palestinian) police show inaction, it will be relevant for us to consider returning to our old model of control," Gen. Almog told Maariv.

Asked to elaborate on what the army would do, he said: "I mean search and arrest actions inside the autonomous area, with or without coordination with the Palestinian authority."

Palestinians took control of most of the Strip in May under an Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal. Israel maintains control of border crossings and thousands of Jewish settlers remain in the Strip under the protection of the Israeli army.

## Iranian diva: Mullahs are anti-art and anti-women

NICOSIA (AP) — Marziyeh, once the grand dame of Iranian music during the Shah's reign, vowed Tuesday never to return to the homeland she recently forsook until the hardline Muslim clerics who rule it are overthrown.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution which overthrew the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, she and other singers and musicians have been barred from performing in public by the Islamic regime.

"After the revolution the clerics ordered us to shut up. They told me that 'no man who is a stranger is allowed to see you or hear your voice,'" the 70-year-old singer said in a telephone interview from Paris, where she arrived from Tehran three weeks ago.

She said she left Iran aboard a commercial flight and without difficulty. Her husband stayed behind, but she refused to discuss that.

Her reason for finally leaving Iran was because "an artist cannot just tolerate herself and sit in a corner, as I have done."

Just as the cultural revolution in China treated artists and intellectuals with disdain, soon after coming to power Iran's fundamentalist rulers announced that artists whose works did not promote Islam had no place in the new order.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the revolutionary patriarch who died of cancer in June 1989, issued sweeping orders banning music, and only years later changed his mind.

But even now, the debate about whether or not music is permitted in Islam has not been settled.

Female singers in Iran can now perform in public, but only if no man is in the audience or the orchestra. That poses great difficulties, since all-female orchestras are virtually non-existent.

When appearing in public, all women must wear a chador, a loose sheet that covers the body from head to foot, or a head scarf and loose smock that hides the female form.

After the revolution most Iranian musicians fled the country. The musical diaspora now crowns nostalgic tunes about the beloved homeland from London, Paris or Los Angeles, which has emerged as the hub of Iranian popular music.

Marziyeh, who is known only by that single name, met Iranian exiles in Paris and now supports the Iraq-based Mujahadeen Khalq, the main Iranian opposition group that seeks to overthrow the Islamic regime in Tehran.

Last week she met Mujahadeen leader Maryam Rajavi, the woman the rebels call Iran's "future president."

"Under the mullahs, Iranian women do not and cannot have any role in society. But I hope that by the grace of God, Mrs. Rajavi will one day lead the way to dignity," she said.

"Until the rule of the mullahs remains I will not return to Iran, because the regime is anti-art, anti-women and anti-everything," the diva vowed.



# Economy

## Analysts see bright future for gold

LONDON (R) — Gold has glittering future but analysts who predict market movements based on graphs of past prices say the bulls may have to wait at least a year before it really takes off.

"There is every reason to believe that, based on gold's performance over the past three or four years, the market is very capable of sustaining much higher prices," said Cliff Green, technical analyst with Trend Analyst Ltd.

The gold price, currently a little over \$380 an ounce, has been struggling unsuccessfully to get back to its summer

highs of last year when a speculative rush boosted it to \$409.

Mr. Green, who bases his analysis on market cycles, forecasts a longer-term target for gold somewhere in the mid-\$500s, "although he admitted that the timing of any rally was more difficult to judge."

"We are talking about something happening in a year's or even two years' time. It's certainly not just around the corner," Mr. Green said.

Bullion has been held in a narrow trading range be-

tween \$368 and \$395 all this year and, according to analysts, is showing little sign of breaking out either side in the near term.

"We are still in a long extended consolidation of a base pattern that started last December," said Anne Whitby of Chart Analysis Ltd.

But analysts say its current price is expected to give the market a base from which to attack and possibly break through recent highs over the next few months.

Gold last traded above \$390 in December 1987, benefiting from investors

fleeing the global stock market meltdown.

But the rally was short-lived and during the following year prices slipped back below \$400.

The market's nadir came in March last year when gold fixed in London at its lowest point for seven years at \$326.10.

"That low effectively completed the bear cycle and we are slowly seeing signs of coming out of that now," Mr. Green said.

Ms. Whitby said that a significant price rise was possible this year but more

likely during 1995.

She said the market could target \$425 initially and then \$450 before surging further.

"I would be very surprised if we didn't test \$500 at some point," she said, adding that even higher prices were possible.

"But there is a lot of resistance up around the \$500 mark she said, referring to the peaks around \$500 reached in early 1983 and December 1987.

Chart analyst Brian Marber of Brian Marber and Associates said gold's current technical picture fulfilled

some of the criteria for the existence of a bull market.

"It still needs to prove itself," said Mr. Marber, pointing out that, since August last year, the January and then the June highs this year have been successively lower.

And other analysts predicted a more minor rally, closed to the present.

"I can see gold going to perhaps \$490 within the next six months but then the market will bomb out (fall)," said Robin Aspinall, chief strategist at Fanniew Gordon.

## Italian premier vows to tackle pensions bomb, deficit

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Friday pledged swift action to cut Italy's huge deficit and vowed to tackle its generous pensions system, which he said risked driving the country into bankruptcy if left unresolved.

In an attempt to boost confidence in his shaky coalition after a summer of bickering among his political allies, media tycoon Berlusconi warned Italians they would be called on to make sacrifices to rescue the country from its economic plight.

That is about one-third of this year's 154 trillion lire (\$102 billion) total budget deficit, the shortfall between government spending and income. The hemorrhage will worsen in coming years as more people retire and fewer take up jobs and pay contributions.

Options facing the government include raising the retirement age by five years to 65 for men and 60 for women.

It can also extend the minimum qualifying period for a pension, which for Italy's army of state employees is 19½ years, and reduce the payout for those who retire.

The conservative prime minister reassured nervous financial markets that his austerity budget — which to save \$33 billion in 1994 and 1995 — would be ready to go before parliament well before the end of September.

But he made no secret of the fact that a large part of the savings would have to come from changes to a system that has given Italians higher pensions than almost anywhere else in the world in return for less work.

The constant drain of money has been made worse by decades of abuse of the system by a discredited political old guard, which handed out disability allowances in return for votes.

The budget is the most crucial item facing the government of media tycoon Berlusconi and will give him the opportunity to back up claim that his coalition is strong and united enough to take tough decisions.

In a clear damage limitation exercise, Mr. Berlusconi also backed the governor of the Bank of Italy, Antonio Fazio, the target of an onslaught by the neo-Fascist National Alliance.

Allegations by senior figures in the coalition party that the bank was subverting the government with this month's interest rate hike sparked disputes on financial markets.

"There cannot be doubts of the government's will to respect the autonomy of the Bank of Italy," Mr. Berlusconi said.

Mr. Berlusconi said existing benefits would not be touched, but indicated that those coming up to retirement would not be able to expect the same treatment.

"We must restructure the sector to stop the state from going bankrupt," he told a news conference held before his cabinet met to work out how to stop the drain on government finances.

This year alone, the government will have to pay out some 70 trillion lire (\$47 billion) to state pensions body INPS to help it meet its existing obligations to pensioners.

## Cost of food in China skyrockets

BEIJING (R) — With the cost of food soaring in China's cities and more money pouring into already red-hot investment projects, Beijing has admitted its serious inflation problem will be difficult to solve.

Retail sales inflation in 35 major cities in July stood at a year rate of 24.2 per cent, the State Statistical Bureau said in a report.

The price of food for city dwellers rose 31.9 per cent over July last year with grain jumping 57.8 per cent and

vegetables 29.7 per cent, the report said.

The ministry of internal trade has issued an urgent order demanding an end to steep rises in food prices.

The order said the supply of food to the market had to be guaranteed, using state stockpiles if necessary.

It demanded an end to hoarding and speculation and threatened severe punishment for such activities.

Pork, one of the items singled out in the order and one

of the staples of the Chinese diet, had a 48.6 per cent jump in price in July compared to July 1993, the official China Information News said.

China's leaders, who five years ago used the army to crush pro-democracy demonstrations that were sparked in part by anger at inflation and corruption, are fearful of prices again sparking off unrest.

Despite the complaints there has so far been no panic buying and no signs of public protests.

"The Beijing city government promised to keep prices rises to 10 per cent," said one woman. "How can that be possible?" she asked, laughing. The state statistical report appeared to agree that such a low level would be almost impossible.

"Major problems exist in the economic performance at present," it said. "The task of controlling the price is still arduous."

Complicating the fight against inflation is the fact that money has started pour-

ing back into construction projects, threatening to push the economy once again to the brink of overheating.

In July state enterprises invested 72.9 per cent more in fixed investment projects than a year earlier, itself a major year for construction.

The State Statistical Bureau was careful not to panic. It said the economy was still in the "yellow light area", signalling that caution was needed.

"The overall situation is

still in the normal area however there are some unstable factors which need careful regulation (and) control," it said.

China's dramatic economic reforms have given it the world's fastest economic growth for two consecutive years, topping 13 per cent last year. But they have also set unleashed inflation.

Beijing's leaders want to control inflation but also seek continuing economic growth to improve living standards.

## Market sentiment towards the dollar remains negative;

The following report, covering the week from Thursday Aug. 18, 1994 until Wednesday Aug. 24, 1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch Dubai.

### Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar rally that followed the 50 basis point hike in U.S. official rates last Tuesday was short-lived and by Friday, the U.S.\$ had fallen to new lows against both the Deutschmark and the yen. The dollar continued its slide until large scale intervention by the Bank of Japan offered a little respite. We believe market sentiment towards the dollar still remains negative and reiterate that the basic trend for the dollar is still downwards. We maintain our 12-month forecasts of DM/U.S.\$ 1.50 and JPY/U.S.\$ 95.

Technical view: Five of the six currencies that we most regularly discuss... led by the Japanese yen... gained ground against the greenback last week. As a result, the U.S. dollar index lost 1.0 per cent for the period, its largest week-to-week decline since the second week in July. Sentiment toward the dollar has been deteriorating in recent weeks and is now no better than neutral; indeed, put call ratios are viewed as overbought. This sentiment background is supported by weak short term momentum. However, medium term oscillators are oversold and improving.

This suggests that any continued weakness in the index — while possibly generating a new reaction low below 86.65 — may ultimately prove to be little more than a test that generates important positive divergences. Below 86.65, support is indicated just under 85.00. Nearby resistance exists at 90.50 and 91.75.

### Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar began sliding against the yen again, falling to 97.55, before heavy intervention by the Bank of Japan was able to prop it up — for the time being. The dollar's troubles go beyond the outcome of the U.S.-Japan trade talks and longer-term weakness will persist regardless of the conclusion. Long-term capital flows out of Japan have slowed to a trickle compared to the late 1980s and large deficit nations, such as the U.S., have had to finance 50-to-100 per cent of their deficits with short-term capital from Japan. Increasingly, the financing has been in the form of yen-denominated loans. Based on Bank of Japan data, it appears that foreigners — especially

U.S.-based hedge funds and institutional or corporate investors — borrowed 12 trillion yen (or about \$120 billion) between July 1993 and January 1994. The rise in the value of the yen in February prompted an early payback of these loans — some \$60 billion worth as of June — creating a significant amount of demand for yen. We maintain our twelve month forecast of JPY/U.S.\$ 95 but believe the risk is for more pronounced weakness going forward.

Technical view: The Japanese yen rallied 1.8 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Aug. 19 and was the strongest currency among the six we most regularly discuss. Medium term sentiment has been improving in recent weeks, but remains only neutral. Short term momentum has reversed to the upside in line with the currency's recent strength. However, medium term oscillators have a downward bias. While the currency may be able to make new highs over the near term (with resistance near 97.20 Y/U.S.\$, then below 93), medium term momentum will be hard pressed to confirm such a move. The resulting divergence would be a sign of an important top. Support at 100.40-101.40 arrested the recent decline; benchmark support remains at 106-112.

### Deutschmark

Fundamental view: The DM continued to gain strength as the dollar weakened in currency markets. The dollar traded in the 1.53-to-1.54 DM range, slipping as low as 1.52 DM. While the dollar was generally weak against the DM, the dollar got some help with renewed and strong indications from Germany that a rate cut by the Bundesbank was round the corner. The prospects for the dollar in the coming quarters do not appear good given capital outflows from the U.S. and the U.S. trade deficit. The contrast between the domestic political troubles of President Clinton and the resurgent support for Chancellor Kohl seem to add to the dollar's woes.

Also, with German inflation likely to fall to close to 2 per cent next year, real interest rates in Germany are likely to remain highly competitive with U.S. rates. This should help keep the Deutschmark strong. We continue to look for the dollar to trade at the DM/U.S.\$ 1.50 level in 12 months.

Technical view: The Deutschmark gained 1.0 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Medium term sentiment has improved but is still generally overbought. Short term momentum is constructive, but medium term oscillators are overbought and diverging in a negative fashion. While the uptrend line from the February lows remains intact, the sentiment and momentum configurations suggest that the

trend is mature. However, a test of the recent highs may still be needed before a true top is in place.

Strong resistance exists at 1.48-1.52 DM/U.S.\$, and an eventual test of the 1992 high at 1.39 still cannot be ruled out. Support exists at 1.575-1.598. Against the yen, the D-mark made a new post-February high last week. However, short term momentum appears to have reversed to the downside, even as medium term oscillators are flat. The dominant 11-month old trading range continues to call the shots, with support at 59-60 and resistance in the area of 65-66.

### Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound once again held steady against the dollar but continued to lose ground to the DM. The pound traded during the week in the U.S.\$ 1.54-1.55 range but plummeted to DM/GBP 2.38. Since the January high of DM/GBP 2.62, the pound lost nearly 25 pennings against the DM, while gaining nine cents against the dollar over the same period. The pound seems to languish despite the release of buoyant numbers on GDP and trade. Evidently the pound appears to be caught in the backwash of the movements of the dollar and the DM.

We continue to expect a 50 BP rate hike by the Bank of England in October. This could give a boost to the pound. With U.K. posting strong GDP growth and low inflation, we maintain our forecast for the pound to appreciate to 1.60 U.S.\$ in six-to-twelve months time.

Technical view: The British pound gained 0.3 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Aug. 19. Nonetheless, the currency continues to trade within its long term trading range. Despite recent improvement, sentiment remains near a multi-year overbought level. Short term momentum has an upward bias, but appears to be peaking. The same can be said for medium term oscillators.

Resistance exists at \$1.586 U.S.\$/L. First support exists near \$1.51; the lower end of the trading range at \$1.46 is second support. The DM cross is now at a new 1994 low. There are momentum divergences, however, so a bottom may not be that far away. A break below 2.380 would likely set the stage for a test of the 1993 low at 2.326. Resistance has been lowered to 2.43-2.45.

### Swiss franc

Fundamental view: Recent dollar weakness against the Deutschmark led to a new 1994 low for the dollar against the Swiss franc. On Aug. 22 the dollar was trading at S.F./U.S.\$ 1.2885. Since then, the dollar has recovered slightly to S.F./U.S.\$ 1.31. Against the mark, the franc was slightly weaker but continued to trade near S.F./DM 0.84. Because we expect the dollar to depreciate further against the mark — to DM/U.S.\$ 1.50 over the next 12 months — we expect the franc to appreciate to S.F./U.S.\$ 1.26 in 12 months. The franc should be little changed against the mark in 12 months, near 0.84. The franc has been able to sustain a rally for the last four weeks and may be poised for further gains.

New concerns about the political situation in North Korea may renew interest in the Swiss franc for its safe-haven status.

Technical view: The Swiss franc advanced 0.8 per cent versus the greenback during the week ended Aug. 19. Despite recent improvement, sentiment remains overbought. Although short term momentum is constructive, initial signs of a possible reversal are evident.

A similar case can be made for medium term momentum; moreover, these oscillators are overbought. Resistance exists at 1.23-1.26 S.F./U.S.\$\$. Support exists at 1.355-1.39. The DM cross remains in its trading 1994 range. While short term momentum is constructive, medium term oscillators are weak. Any nearby rally, therefore, is not likely to have much staying power. Support is at .834-.838; resistance exists above .850.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 27, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Taurus Moon rises Mercury, Neptune and Uranus bring mental ability and a good common-sense mentality, making a positive time to discuss and conduct business affairs that go to the heart of your concerns.

will regret it later. Engage in your favourite relaxation today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Handle routine chores early in the day and bring more concord at home. Plan how to add to present income via new interests.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make plans to gain your finest aims. Make certain that you understand exactly what close ties expect of you in their lives.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study your monetary position and figure out a sensible way to improve it. Make needed property repairs so your home will hold its value.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can now develop good ideas for improving your personal and business life. Use tact in handling a communication from an associate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan how to improve the quality of your life through idealistic concepts. Make this a most productive day in your life.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take time to go over business matters with others for mutual gain. Try to be more understanding of others you have contact with.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Get in touch with fine friends who can help you solve a delicate problem. Take good care of your health so you can remain productive.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take steps to cooperate more with close ties instead of bucking them and you get good results with their assistance.

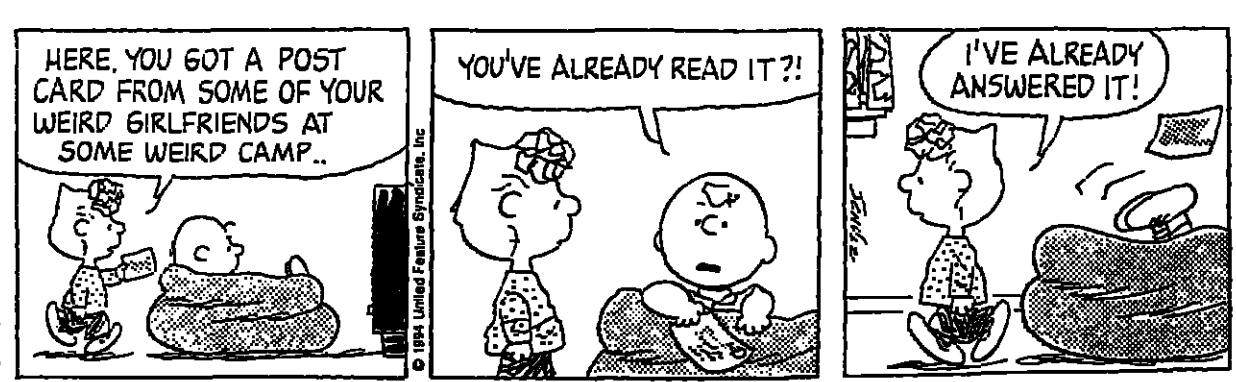
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get in touch with fine friends who can help you solve a delicate problem. Take good care of your health so you can remain productive.

LOVE: (June 22 to August 21) There is much work ahead of you so waste no time early in the day in accomplishing your tasks. Control your temper.

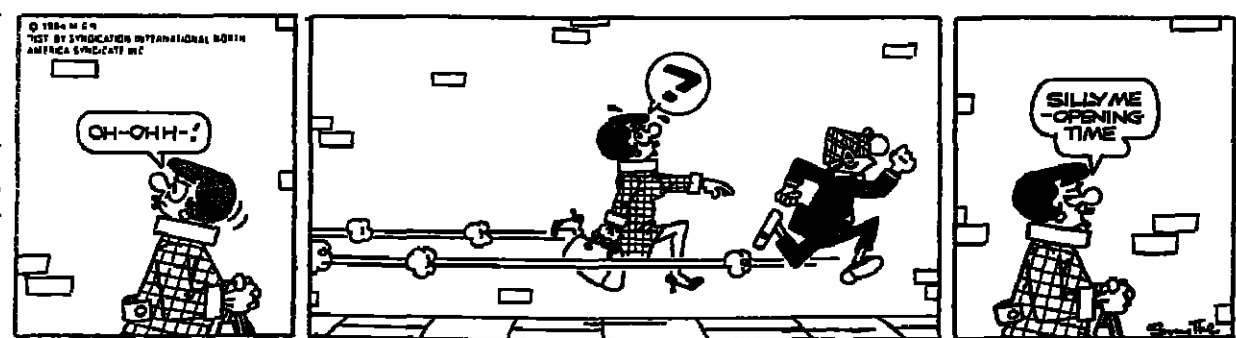
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Stay within your budget if you go out for amusement or you

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

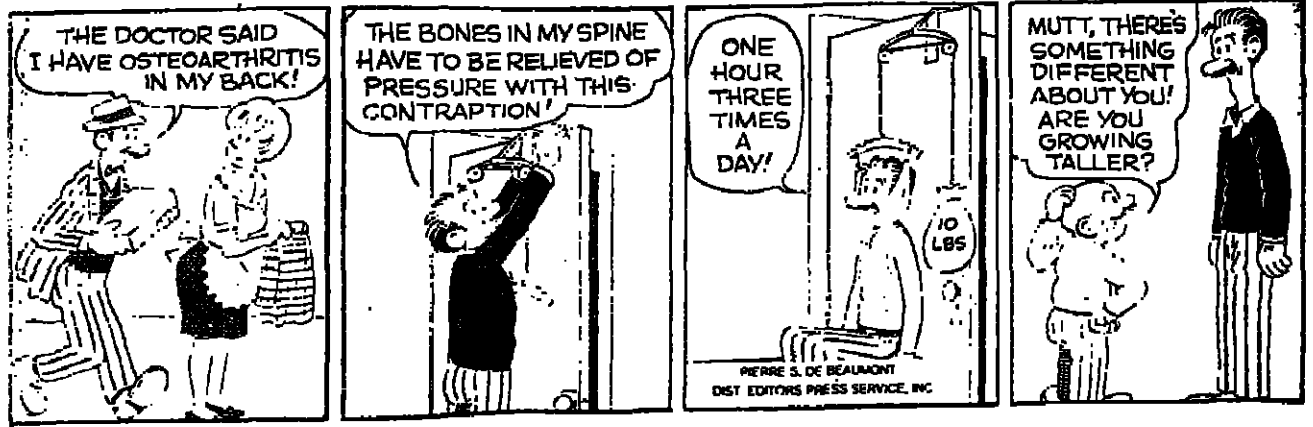
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



**THE BETTER HALF** By Glasbergen

**Jumble not received**

**THE Daily Crossword** by Mark & Jane Crowell

ACROSS

1. Elec. units
2. Weapons
3. Footless creature
4. Cent
5. Genuine
6. Bow's last stand
7. Objects of study for 100
8. "In Douce"
9. Prime's proof
10. Comp. or
11. Offspring
12. Lone Ranger's friend
13. Fool
14. Jilted and landers
15. Admonished
16. Journey
17. Car
18. Liquid measure
19. Low-down guy
20. Far from bright
21. Matriarch
22. Shopped
23. Chair base
24. Hgt.
25. Wood joint
26. Able was I — saw Elia
27. Galena, a.p.
28. Prohibit
29. Wedge
30. Chicken — king
31. Artery
32. Solo vocal piece
33. Object of study for 100
34. Addams family patriarch
35. — Piper
36. Privy term
37. What's left
38. Fair
39. Anglo-Saxon laborer
40. Down
41. Iron or bronze
42. Short type
43. Object of study for 100
44. Losses weight
45. Circle segment
46. Cut back
47. Statue lady
48. Residue
49. Moslem callah
50. Some museum workers
51. Portent
52. Medical amount
53. Having no key
54. Exploration
55. Acronym
56. Part of a ship
57. Fixed amount
58. Large family
59. "The —" (Tegan)
60. Stadium
61. Talk of fans
62. Certain
63. Fisherman
64. Mortar
65. Common people
66. Bouquets
67. Retain
68. Hold in custody
69. Hammer or saw
70. Dum's land
71. Supports
72. Originate
73. From a distance
74. Fuse
75. Mislay
76. Small group
77. Prayer ending
78. Have a meeting
79. From a distance
80. Fuse
81. Mislay
82. Small group
83. Prayer ending
84. Have a meeting
85. From a distance
86. Fuse
87. Mislay
88. Small group
89. Prayer ending
90. Have a meeting
91. From a distance
92. Fuse
93. Mislay
94. Small group
95. Prayer ending
96. Have a meeting
97. From a distance
98. Fuse
99. Mislay
100. Small group



## Senior vows pensions deficit

That is about one-third of his year's 154 trillion (\$102 billion) total budget deficit, the shortfall between government spending and income. The government has been in a deficit since 1989, and more people retire and take up jobs and pay contributions.

Options facing the government are raising the retirement age by five years for men and 60 for women.

It can also extend the pension qualifying period from 25 to 30 years, which for many of state employees is 25 years, and reduce the pension for those who have worked for less than 25 years. The pension has been a major item in the budget for decades of abuse of the old guard, which has turned it into a political tool.

The budget is the main item facing the government of media tycoon Yusuf al-Zaidi and will give him an opportunity to back out of his coalition with the king and united enough to tough decisions.

In a clear danger to his exercise, Mr. Zaidi, who backed the king's son, the target of a slaying by the neo-Fascist National Alliance.

Allegations by senior members in the coalition party that the king was subject to government with the king's interest rate in the market.

There cannot be doubt the government's will to protect the autonomy of the king of Italy," Mr. Berlusconi said.

## OPE

AUGUST 27, 1994  
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1A: (September 23 to 25) Handle routine in the day and bring it to home. Plan to present income tax.

RPIO: (October 21 to 23) Study to study position and figure out how to improve. needed property repair home will hold in the.

TTARIUS: (November 21 to 23) Plan to live the quality of your life. This is a most productive time.

UCORN: (December 21 to 23) Making plans for the day to gain your peace. Take it easy and express happiness with others.

ARIUS: (January 21 to 23) Get to know your friends who can help a debt problem. The care of your health will remain productive.

2B: (February 21 to 23) How to make your righter and then next to have a good day for happiness in your life.

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80 Full  
90 Small - Large

## Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York 25/8/94	Tel Aviv 25/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5535	1.5563
Deutsche Mark	1.5460	1.5472
Swiss Franc	1.3023	1.3050
French Franc	5.2950	5.3035**
Japanese Yen	98.99	99.54
European Currency Unit	1.2510	1.2501**

\*\* 100 per 1000  
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. L.M.T.

European Currency Unit Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.56	4.68	5.00	5.56
Sterling Pound	4.75	5.12	5.62	6.56
Deutsche Mark	4.52	4.75	5.21	5.12
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.06	4.25	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.68	6.12
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.08	2.12	2.42
European Currency Unit	5.53	5.79	6.09	6.53

Source: Reuters, last rates for currencies converted L.S. Dollars 1000/1000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0766	1.0820
Deutsche Mark	0.4485	0.4507
Swiss Franc	0.5317	0.5346
French Franc	0.1310	0.1317
Japanese Yen	0.6976	0.7011
Dutch Guilder	0.2994	0.3014
Swedish Krona	0.0442	0.0444
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0444
Belgian Franc	0.0442	0.0444

For 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.5270	1.5310
Lebanese Lira	0.040855	0.041935
Saudi Riyal	0.1650	0.1662
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3450
Qatari Riyal	0.1695	0.1910
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2170
Omani Riyal	1.7850	1.8030
L.A.E. Dirham	0.1685	0.1846
Greek Drachma	0.2365	0.2825
Cypriot Pound	1.3925	1.4965

For 100

## India allows foreign drug firms majority stake

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, reviving stalled economic reforms, has approved a medical drugs policy allowing a majority stake for foreign firms and easing price controls, officials said.

The pharmaceutical industry was one of the key sectors still under government controls since Mr. Rao launched a radical economic liberalisation programme in 1991.

"It's one step forward but falls short of the industry's expectations," said Anant Thakore, president of the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association, India's largest industry association with over 800 member companies.

"The government is over-cautious and does not want to deregulate this sector, as it has done other sectors of the economy," he told Reuters.

The policy would allow foreign drug makers a majority 51 per cent equity stake in companies to make bulk drugs, which are a key input in medicines.

The government would also reduce the number of bulk drugs that can be made only by state-owned companies and reduce the number of drugs that cannot be sold above government-specified prices from 142 to 73.

India, under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) world trade pact, is committed to changing its patent laws to allow product patents.

Industry executives say this means domestic firms protected by current law need to invest in research to compete with foreign firms.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3713/23	Canadian dollar	1.5429/39
	1.5429/39	Deutsche marks	1.7326/36
	1.7326/36	Dutch guilders	1.3017/27
	1.3017/27	Swiss francs	31.78/82
	31.78/82	Belgian francs	5.2897/47
	5.2897/47	French francs	1568.70/2
	1568.70/2	Italian lire	99.05/15
	99.05/15	Japanese yen	7.6018/18
	7.6018/18	Swedish crowns	6.7758/09
	6.7758/09	Norwegian crowns	6.1187/37
	6.1187/37	Danish crowns	11.5545/55
One sterling	\$383.30/38.80		
One ounce of gold	\$383.30/38.80		

## Investors continue to zero in on AFM's service sector shares

By a Jordan Times staff Reporter

AMMAN — Stock prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) dipped and volume also declined last week as investors sought to turn their holdings into service sector shares in anticipation of gains as a result of a boom in tourism, brokers said Friday.

The weekly report of the AFM said 3.7 million shares worth JD 9.9 million changed hands last week, marking a 20.2 per cent decline in volume from the previous week's JD 12.4 million.

The general share price index closed at 150.24 points, down 1.7 points or 1.1 per cent from the week's opening of 151.96 points, it said.

The drop in prices was most visible in the industrial sector, whose index registered a 3.1 point, or 2.2 per cent, decline during the week.

The index of commercial bank stocks declined by one point, or 0.6 per cent, followed by insurance stocks where the decline in index was 0.9 points or 0.6 points.

The drop was the least last week with 0.1 point or 0.04 per cent in service sector shares, which were boosted by expectations that hotels and other tourism-related entities stood to gain as a result of Jordanian-Israeli moves to cooperate in tourism and offer joint packages after opening a tourist crossing point between Aqaba and Eilat.

The focus of investors on the services sector was also clearly pronounced in sectoral trading.

Volume of trading in the services sector ranked highest in sectoral dealings with JD 5.5 million, or 55.8 per cent of the weekly trading, followed by industrial stock with 2.51 million, or 25.5 per cent, commercial banks with

JD 1.82 million, or 18.4 per cent, and insurance stock with JD 34,000, or 0.3 per cent, the AFM report said.

"There is visible trend among investors to shed acquisitions in industrial and commercial bank stocks and move the liquidity to the service sector," said a broker.

"That explains the drop in prices in those sectors." At the same time, a few service sector entities are seen as not holding out any immediate prospects of gains, and the decline in prices of those entities are reflected in the overall sectoral drop in prices, said the broker, who cannot be identified under AFM guidelines.

Brokers said stability had returned to the market after several months of uncertainty prompted by doubts cast on the economic prospects for Jordan from the Middle East peace process.

Shares of 78 companies were traded during the week.

with nine of them showing gains, 58 losing and six remaining stable.

Last week's Jordanian-Palestinian talks and the public cordiality between the two sides were not expected to bring about any major changes in AFM trends, brokers said.

"Seeing is believing," said the broker. "Investors have heard a lot of talk about economic cooperation and megaprojects between Jordan and the Palestinians, but their experience is that those talks have not materialised into projects."

As such, said the broker, "investors are focusing more on events and expectations related to Jordan itself than the Palestinians in the short term."

"They would turn to take benefit of Jordanian-Palestinian projects only after proposals are turned into concrete projects on the ground," he pointed out.

## Turkey's central bank chief sees stable lira

ANKARA (R) — Central bank governor Yaman Toruner said the big swings in the value of the lira in the last three days would not undermine Turkey's monetary targets.

And he pledged renewed central bank intervention to defend the lira.

"There is no deviation from the targets given to the IMF regarding the central bank operations. All the balance sheet aggregates are in line with the targets," Mr. Toruner said in an interview with Reuters.

"This was not a crisis but a cyclical movement seen in almost every economy," Mr. Toruner said.

Turkey has agreed year-end monetary targets with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It wants the U.S. dollar to stand at or below 38,000 lira by the end of 1994.

The IMF for the average dollar rate in August was below 35,000 lira. Now the monthly average rate is very likely to remain below 32,000," Mr. Toruner said.

The lira recovered late Thursday after the central bank raised cash rates and sold dollars to end the turmoil triggered by high currency rates quoted by the bank.

The dollar, which hit 35,362 lira Wednesday, fell to below 33,000 lira Thursday. It opened at 32,500 lira Friday.

Bankers say high central bank reserves have strengthened confidence in the lira, battered by the economic crisis which erupted in January. The central bank has been building up reserves steadily since April when the government launched an IMF-endorsed economic plan.

Reserves, which fell to a low of \$3 billion in April, exceeded \$6.5 billion Thursday — the highest since Dec. 17. The bank also holds gold reserves worth about \$1.5 billion.

Officials say the bank, which has already overshot the end-1994 target pledged to the IMF by some \$2.5 billion, aims to exceed the \$7.2-billion level.

The turmoil preceded big payments by the treasury to service domestic debt, which started Thursday. Nervous banks pushed up demand for the dollar, anticipating a September crisis as repayments on government debt flood markets with cash.

But Mr. Toruner insisted the currency would remain stable. "We are well-prepared for the excess cash in September," he said.

The treasury, squeezed by high public deficits, must repay \$1 trillion lira between Aug. 25 and Sept. 2. "Half of this money has

been matched by new borrowing and the treasury will also continue to borrow," Mr. Toruner said. "The central bank is also capable of draining the remaining cash surplus."

Mr. Toruner said some 10 trillion lira of excess cash may remain idle in the market in September.

"This is not high. The economy can absorb this. If not, we will take measures like selling dollars," he said.

The total debt service due by end-September is more than 100 trillion lira.

## UAE banks remain key investors in foreign markets

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) banks have remained key investors to world markets despite sharp currency fluctuations and weak interest rates over the past three years, an official study showed Friday.

Although they have dropped by around four per cent since the end of 1992, foreign assets by the UAE's 47 banks remained above 40 per cent of their total assets of 155.2 billion dirhams (\$42.28 billion) at the end of March, said the study by the central bank.

The foreign assets, based mainly in the West, stood at 63 billion dirhams (\$17.16 billion) in March compared with 67.9 billion dirhams (\$18.50 billion) at the end of 1992, it said.

Bankers ascribed the heavy reliance on foreign markets to the lack of major investment opportunities in the UAE and other Gulf states. "There are some investment fields here but not enough to absorb all those funds. Apart from credits to the local market, other investment scopes are relatively small," a UAE bank manager told AFP.

Domestic credits and loans provided by the country's 19 national banks and 28 foreign units totalled 74.6 billion dirhams (\$20.32 billion) by the end of March, accounting for nearly half their total assets.

Nearly half the loans went to the trade and construction sectors while the rest covered industry.

The study showed domestic investments by UAE banks remained a fraction of their assets, standing at only 1.22 billion dirhams (\$332 million).

Their deposits with each other stood at only 5.29 billion dirhams (\$1.44 billion) at the end of March. This compares with their deposits with banks abroad of around 39.7 billion dirhams (\$10.81 billion).

A breakdown on the other components of the foreign assets showed credits and loans totalled 10.3 billion dirhams (\$2.80 billion) and investments at nearly 7.34 billion dirhams (\$2 billion).

Assets with their branches or head offices abroad stood at around 2.13 billion dirhams (\$580 million) and other foreign assets at nearly 1.36 billion dirhams (\$370 million).

Figures on foreign liabilities showed a wide gap existed in the asset balance with other countries, with assets of foreign banks inside the UAE standing at 26.13 billion dirhams (\$7.11 billion).

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## Perkins leads triumphant Australians to Rome

VICTORIA (R) — World record breaker Kieren Perkins leads a confident Australian swimming team to the Rome World Championships next month after they all but swept the board at the Commonwealth Games, winning 26 gold medals.

Perkins capped a triumphant six days of competition by breaking his own 1,500 metres freestyle world record, taking the 800 record on the way.

And the Olympic champion predicted the records would not last long.

"I'd like to think I could go faster in Rome," he said, while his coach John Carey felt his charge could shave at least another two seconds off his mark of 14 minutes 41.66 seconds.

Perkins said he would also concentrate more on the 400 in Rome after coming within 0.77 or a second of the world record here.

"The swim here was way beyond my expectations, even though the final 50 metres was not that fast. I can swim the last lap a lot faster than that," he warned his American and European rivals.

The 21-year-old television presenter, a millionaire and a household name at home will race the 200, 400 and 1,500, his gold medal events at these games.

Apart from Perkins and team mate Samantha Riley in the 100 breaststroke, times were generally slower than expected at the new Saanich Commonwealth place pool.

"Maybe everybody at the back of their minds is holding back a bit with the world championships looming," Perkins said.

Rebecca Brown, who broke the world 200 metres breaststroke record with two minutes 24.74 seconds last March, was one swimmer bitterly disappointed with her time and silver medal.

The shy 17-year-old was in tears on the podium after coming home second to Riley, more than five seconds behind her best.

"I think when she gets to Rome you'll find her much tougher," head coach Don Talbot said.

"Some swimmers have had medals every time you jump in the water."

Riley's games were triumph and frustration combined. She beat Brown for a personal best time and Commonwealth record 1:08.02 in the 100 metres but missed one of the last east German world records still standing, that of Silke Hoerner, by a mere 0.11 of a second.

But her hunger is keen and she is sure to be looking for gold and records in Rome.

Other Australians whom the Hungarian, American and Russian swimmers will be wary of are medley experts Matthew Dunn and Elli Overton, butterfly Queen Susan O'Neill and all-round stalwart Hayley Lewis, who added two golds here to the five she won in Auckland four years ago.

In the men's breaststroke England's Commonwealth record holder Nick Gillingham and Australian short-course world record holder Phil Rogers shared the honours, Gillingham taking the gold in the 200 and Rogers in the 100. Both are championship medal prospects.

A delighted English squad won six golds in Victoria, compared with only one in Auckland, and fly to Rome in high spirits.

Apart from Gillingham their hopes lie with 100 metres freestyle sprinter Karen Pickering and 50 metres speed merchant Mark Foster who upset the Australians.

"I think they will swim faster when they get to Rome. But we have got to be realistic," British coach Dave Haller said. "In the heats in Rome we will have to swim our finals' times here just to get into the finals there. It is going to be very difficult."

Canada, traditionally Australia's keenest rivals in the pool at the Commonwealth Games, came away with a single gold from Stephen Clarke in the 100 free, though they went close in several races, particularly the men's medley with Curtis Myden.

Their performance was a disappointment to a fiercely partisan crowd but not unexpected because of their inexperienced squad.

"They have a good couple of years to build and for the Olympics in 1996 they should be right on," said Andrea Nugent, retiring Canadian veteran of three games.

"There are a lot of vets retiring and a lot of new people coming up," added Nugent who won the 50 metres silver medal here.

New Zealand, who picked up one gold through Danyon Loader in the 200 butterfly, will be looking to the 19-year-old Olympic silver medalist for their best showing at the worlds

## Hong Kong says goodbye to Commonwealth Games

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Hong Kong says goodbye forever to the Commonwealth Games this weekend.

When the final 53 athletes to represent the crowded, bustling British colony walk into Centennial Stadium Sunday for the closing ceremony, they will head towards an uncertain future under Chinese rule.

"It will be quite emotional, I would imagine," said Rosemary McMahon, a lawn bowler participating in her third Commonwealth Games. "We'll probably have a tear in our eye."

On June 30, 1997, one year before the next Commonwealth Games, some 150 years of British rule will end for Hong Kong and it will be ceded to China.

"Under the agreement, the 5.9 million people of Hong Kong are to retain their economic and social system. The multi-million dollar sports programme will remain intact and Hong Kong will participate in the Asian games separately from China. But its Olympic future is uncertain."

Some members of the Hong Kong team privately express concern that what has been promised may not take place once the communist government of China takes over.

They are worried about the future of human rights under a Chinese government that was responsible for the massacre of students at Tiananmen Square in 1989.

"Nobody would like to see Hong Kong change too much," McMahon said. "It's such a fantastic, prosperous place."

It is that prosperity that will keep China from making any major changes, many predict.

Sonny de Sales, outgoing president of the Commonwealth Games federation who has lived in Hong Kong since 1929, said non-British foreign companies are anxious for the transfer.

"They're not shedding any

crocodile tears over the British going away," de Sales said. "because hitherto the British power naturally favoured British companies."

Some athletes may join the exodus of people leaving Hong Kong. Others who stay behind face the prospect of becoming part of the giant Chinese sports system.

"That may have its advantages because it gives us a chance to improve a lot," swimmer Robyn Lamsam said. "But, first we would have to get past the Chinese swimmers, and that would be really rough because there are so many Chinese athletes who are so strong."

Pang Chung, head of the Hong Kong delegation to these games, is confident the athletes will benefit from the changeover. He said that the departure from the Commonwealth "is not a big issue from the sports point of view."

The nostalgia at these games seems largely limited to the older members of a team where the ages range from 12 to 70.

"Maybe the old athletes has this kind of sad feeling," Pang said. "I think the youngsters are all looking forward to competition in their own field."

Hong Kong's departure has not gone unnoticed in Victoria.

This week, Chinese dragons danced down a street to the beat of oriental drums and dragon boats glided across the city's inner harbour in celebration of the colony's 44-year membership in the Commonwealth.

But de Sales, involved with the Commonwealth federation from the day Hong Kong joined, has no use for any grieving over the end of British rule and participation in the games.

Most Chinese in Hong Kong greatly prefer a transfer to China to continued British rule, he believes. Many government positions already have been shifted to Hong Kong Chinese.

## S. Africa wins first gold in 36 years

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — South Africa's 36-year victory drought at the Commonwealth Games ended emphatically Thursday with two gold medals.

The golds came in the men's and women's fours in lawn bowling and were South Africa's first at the games since 1958, when it won 13 golds, 10 silvers and eight bronzes. After that, the country was barred until this year because of its apartheid policy.

Since the games began a week ago, the South Africans had won four medals — one silver, by 10,000-metre runner Elana Meyer, and three bronzes. But the coveted gold had eluded them until they beat Australia 21-18 in the men's lawn bowls final and Papua New Guinea 24-17 in the women's final.

South Africa also was banned from the Olympics for 32 years starting in 1960, and when it returned for the 1992 Barcelona games, it got two silvers — one by Meyer, the other in men's doubles tennis.

"Barcelona was symbolic, Victoria is real business," chief de mission Tyam Zashé said after the country won the long-sought golds.

"We no longer have to make excuses... we only needed the opportunity — and we got it. This is very significant."

Will the team celebrate? "I think we deserve that," Zashé said.

Janet Mitchell, South Africa's gymnastics coach, also was elated.

"This is wonderful, great... I'm very excited," she said. "Now we can start celebrating."

The women's team, comprised of Colleen Grondein, 55; Hester Bekker, 53; Lorna Trigwell, 40, and Anna Pretorius, 64, had the honor of winning the first gold.

The men followed shortly afterward. That team included Neil Burkett, 46, Alan Lofthouse, 37, Robert Rayfield, 50, and Donald Pickett, 38.

The success by the bowlers is not the end of the South Africans' medal haul at the

games, Zashé predicted. "We said we would win 10 medals at the Games," he said. "We have four to go."

If there are to be four more, they will have to come in track and field, the only sport South Africa still has competitors remaining.

The chances rest with pole vaulter Oskert Brits, 800-metre runner Hezekiel Sepeng, 1,500-metre runner Johan Landsman and women's high jumper Charmaine Weaver.

Zashé said South Africa had hoped to win medals in swimming and boxing, but those chances already were dashed.

Winning the gold in women's lawn bowling was no surprise, he said, but winning the men's event was unexpected.

"We thought we were strong in women's lawn bowling," he said. "But we didn't appraise our men properly. They were a pleasant surprise."

He said he expected a tremendous reaction from the people of South Africa when they hear about the golds.

"They'll be ecstatic," he said.

Meanwhile, Australian Michael Murphy completed a remarkable run in men's diving by winning the 10-metre platform event with 644.700 points.

Earlier, the confident 20-year-old from Brisbane won the 3-metre event and finished second in the 1-metre competition.

Robert Morgan of Wales, the 1990 champion, finished a distant second with 585.960 points.

Australians also swept both race walks, enabling the country to sweep into the medal lead in track and field

at the games. Kerry Saxby-Jumna, a 33-year-old tour guide, led the way in the women's 10-kilometre walk in 44 minutes, 25 seconds.

"I wanted to get the gold medal again," Saxby-Jumna said, after breaking the games record of 45:03 she set in winning the gold medal in the first women's walk event at the Commonwealth games in 1990 at Auckland, New Zealand.

"I put much pressure on myself. The more stressful an event is, the better I compete."

Australian Nicholas A'Hern won the men's 30k walk at 2:07:53, only six seconds off the games record of 2:07:47 set by fellow Aussie Simon Baker in 1986 at Edinburgh, Scotland.

"I pushed myself to some where I've never been before," A'Hern, 25, a hairdresser, said. "That's a personal best for me by a few minutes."

The two gold medals gave Australia five after 16 track events. England, the overall track and field medals leader with 13, has four golds.

David Morgan gave Wales two golds in weightlifting, winning the snatch competition with a Commonwealth record 147.5 kilograms and the overall title in the 76-kilogramme class. The gold in clean and jerk went to Damian Brown of Australia.

In boxing, Canada landed three fighters into the finals with the semifinal competition halfway over.

Stephen Gallinger of Canada completed the afternoon session of boxing by stopping Ezwell Ndlovu of Zimbabwe at 56 seconds of the third round in their 91-kilogramme bout.

## Doyle bids for bike glory

VICTORIA (AFP) — First there was Chris Boardman and his Barcelona superbike, then Graeme Obree and his pedal-powered washing machine. Now there is Commonwealth Games medal hope Tony Doyle...

and the most expensive bicycle ever built.

"All told, it cost 50,000 pounds to develop," says English pursuit cyclist Doyle. "It's a thoroughbred."

The 36-year-old should know, after a 14-year professional career that has included the highs of two pursuit world titles and the lows of a high-speed racing crash which almost killed him.

His bike, developed by Aston Martin — makers of the handbuilt luxury cars favoured by James Bond — is an amalgam of the latest state-of-the-art technology, designed to snatch precious micro-seconds during Doyle's search for double gold here.

It is a direct descendant of new world champion Boardman's legendary machine which helped to win Olympic gold in Barcelona in 1992.

"It's made of carbon fibre and weighs 8kg. It's very aerodynamic, with a single-blade front wheel fork, sloping handlebars to get me in the best position and a seat pin shaped like a fin," he says.

The bike won't match the dramatic impact made by Scotsman Obree's revolutionary — but now outlawed — home-made machine, forged out of scrap metal and washing machine parts.

But it forms a crucial part of Doyle's second Commonwealth medal challenge. 16 years after he won two bronzes before turning professional.

"It's difficult to say what aerodynamic advantage it gives me — everybody is using aerodynamic technology. But it is the best pursuit bike I have ever ridden," he says.

The story began six months ago, when Doyle was measured up and thrust into a

series of wind tunnel tests. The prototype was finished in April but "it didn't feel quite right."

By June the first track version was ready and Doyle got the finished product six weeks ago. Just in time for the Commonwealths. Just in time to make him a household name.

"Ironically, Doyle, who races 130 days a year, is already just that within the sport. As he points out: 'Boardman has just won his first world title and made a fantastic start to his professional career in the Tour de France.'

"Obree — who I know very well and is a total eccentric and doesn't know what the word conventional means — won his in Norway last year."

"I have raced them in track and road races and I have a lot of time and respect for both of them. But I won two world titles and four European crowns and have been at the top level for a while now."

He is not worried about the lack of recognition: "I have a lot to be thankful for. In 1989 I had a crash while racing in a six-day event in Munich and landed on my head. It was touch and go. I suffered multiple fractures of the skull, shoulder, elbow and arm and ended up in a coma."

"Then they dropped me off the stretcher down some concrete stairs while taking me to hospital. I needed speech therapy and had to learn how to do everything again — how to shave, eat and walk."

A year later, however, he returned against all the odds to Munich and won the event — with his hospital doctor, who could not believe his rapid recovery, cheering him on in the crowd.

Doyle wants to write another chapter to that happy ending here. "The Commonwealths — and the bike — are the new challenge I needed. I want to go home with two medals. Golds, preferably."

## Fredericks seeks satisfaction in 200m

VICTORIA (AFP) — Namibia's Frankie Fredericks rebounded from his disappointing fourth place in the 100m to cruise through the first round of the Commonwealth Games 200m here on Wednesday.

But Fredericks, the 200m world champion, was slower in winning his heat than world silver medalist John Regis of England, and both were served warning by Nigerians Daniel Effiong and Kayode Oluwemi who were the only men to break 21

seconds in the first round. Fredericks was looking forward to proving himself in Friday's final, especially against Regis, who nearly missed the games with an Achilles tendon injury.

"All the best runners in the Commonwealth are here," Fredericks said. "I haven't won a Commonwealth medal and I'm hoping I'm not going to be fourth again. I just have to forget that race and move on."

Tuesday's full athletics programme featured nine fin-

als, including Linford Christie's superb 100m victory in a Games record of 9.91 seconds.

Wednesday's schedule was less crowded, with medals to be decided in women's shot put and 10,000m decathlon and the men's 5,000m.

Australian swimmers were on course for a clean sweep of the golds in the last day of swimming competition at Saanich pool.

Marianne Kriel crashed out of the 50m freestyle with a disastrous performance in

qualifying, putting paid to South African hopes of lifting a swimming gold in their first Games in 36 years.

Karen van Wirdum was fastest in Kriel's event with 26.00 sec and Aussies headed qualifying going into all the remaining finals — men's 200m individual medley, 1,500m free and 4x100m free and the women's 200m butterfly and 200m backstroke.

The staid greens of the lawn bowls centre saw spectacular action on Wednesday morning when New Zealand Judy Howat bounced back from 11-0 down and 22-12 down to pull off a 25-24 victory over England's Norma Shaw.

The result opened up section A in the women's singles round-robin, in which Northern Ireland's Margaret Johnston and Scotland's Joyce Lindores are also in the hunt. All have won four matches out of five in the women's competition wide open in section A with Northern Ireland's Margaret Johnston and Scotland's Joyce Lindores also in the hunt.

Lindores leads the section from 1990 bronze medalist Johnston. Shaw, then Howat, who have all won four out of five. The winners of section A and B qualify for the championship match.

"I guess Houdini would have been proud of that," Howat said of her victory over Shaw. "When I was trailing 11-0, I thought I was going to lose 25-0."

## Welsh shooter gains revenge

VICTORIA (AFP) — Michael Jay gained revenge over a pair of Australian marksmen here Thursday, coming from behind to win Wales' first shooting gold of the 15th Commonwealth Games.

The 44-year-old won the individual rapid fire pistol title, pushing Australians Robert Dowling and Patrick Murray into second and third.

"I am delighted, absolutely delighted," said Jay. "After losing the gold in the pairs, I knew I had to go out and win this one."

Dowling, 48, and Murray, 49, won the pairs title over Jay and Richard Craven. Dowling was three points clear of Jay at the end of qualifying with a score of 575. Englishmen Stanley Willis and Nigel Freedland were also ahead of the Welsh shooter.

In the final, Jay shot five scores of 10 or more en route to a games record total of 670.2.

Dowling managed just 93.4 in the 10-shot final for 668.4, a fraction above Murray's 668.1. Willis and Freedland were fourth and fifth.

"It was a very nervy affair," said Jay. "But I thought I had a chance and just kept shooting."

Earlier Manshar Singh claimed India's second shooting gold of the Games.

"I owe it all to my wife

Mrinal," he said. "Ever since I got married two years ago, I have been shooting better."

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### REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATIONS

Sigma One Corporation in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina USA invites qualified Jordanian refrigeration and construction contractors to submit a statement of qualifications to be considered for a subcontract to design, construct and install the necessary facilities and equipment for a refrigerated "Cold Storage Facility" for fresh fruits and vegetables in transit to export markets. The facility will be located at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman. Only qualified Jordanian and United States firms that submit qualification statements in response to this advertisement will be eligible to receive copies of the request for proposals, statements of qualifications must be received at P.O. Box 12836, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA, 27709 no later than SEP 19, 1994.

Particulars: The facility is to serve as transient storage for fresh fruits and vegetables to be shipped by air from QAIA. Physical dimensions: approximately 2500 cubic meters of refrigerated space on 500 square meters of surface area. Must maintain inside temperature within 2-4 C. The facility must be designed for efficient throughput of air cargo pallets.

Contractor will be required to review and finalize preliminary designs and equipment specifications, and to submit a not to exceed cost estimate for a "turn key" type contract. Source and origin of services, materials and equipment must be Jordan or the United States only. Only contractors deemed to be qualified on the basis of prior experience with similar facilities and equipment will be considered for receipt of the formal request for proposal. Final selection will be from a "short-list" of qualified firms, which will be required to demonstrate financial capability to undertake the contract on a cost reimbursement basis.

All interested firms should submit a complete statement of qualifications including names and addresses of references for prior performance on similar projects. General brochures or advertising materials will not be adequate without information on specific information regarding experience with facilities and equipment for modern refrigerated storage for fresh perishable products.

Please note that U.S. Government procurement policies will be strictly observed, and that this advertisement does not obligate Sigma One Corporation to issue a request for proposal not to select the contractor from the respondents to this advertisement. Selection of the contractor would be based on technical and costs considerations.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHAWF  
A TAMMAN HIRSH  
©1993 Tamman Hirsh Books, Inc.

### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, at South you hold:  
♠A Q 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♥A 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦A 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♣A 7 6 5 4 3 2  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, at South you hold:  
♠K 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♥K 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦K 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♣K 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
2 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, at South you hold:  
♠K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♥K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♣K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
2 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?

Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?

Q.4—North-South vulnerable, at South you hold:  
♠A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♥A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♣A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
Your right-hand opponent opens one club. What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♥K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♣K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♥A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♣A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What do you bid now?  
Look for answers on Monday.



## Injuries create a U.S. 'wide' Open

NEW YORK (AFP) — Injuries to Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf, the world number ones and defending champions, have put both the U.S. Open titles up for grabs when the \$9.36 million event begins here Monday.

Sampras pulled out of his final hardcourt tuneup with a left ankle injury. Tendinitis pain limited Sampras to two Davis Cup matches since his Wimbledon triumph last month.

His lingering pain could open the way for other top seeds such as Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, Spain's Sergi Bruguera, Sweden's Stefan Edberg, German Boris Becker and Michael Stich or U.S. veteran Michael Chang.

"We don't have a clear-cut favorite," sixth seed Chang said, "that will create a very interesting and very exciting Open."

"A lot of guys are capable of winning the Open — Becker, Edberg, Goran — and I put myself up there with the rest of that bunch."

Australian Open winner Graf has struggled with a back injury, while Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez have won the past two Grand Slam titles.

"I have had lots of rest and physiotherapy," Graf said, "hopefully it will be fine for the Open."

Add fourth seed Mary Pierce of France and fifth seed Kimiko Date of Japan and there could be four different women's Slam winners this year.

"It's hard to say if someone else can win, but there are a lot of players who could," said Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. "Everything depends on how people play. For fun, I would say Steffi, Conchita and Mary Pierce (will join me in the semi-finals)."

The 108th Open, worth \$550,000 to the winners, features plenty of men in pain besides Sampras. World number two Ivanisevic pulled out of his final tuneup event

with a sore hip.

"I don't feel so great," Ivanisevic said. "I wanted to get some confidence. Having to retire before the U.S. Open is not great for your confidence."

Third seed Bruguera, the French Open winner, has had a leg injury. Number nine Todd Martin has struggled the past month with a groin injury.

"There's a big difference between Pete Sampras coming off an injury and Todd Martin doing the same," Martin said.

"People walk on the court and say, 'Jesus, that's Pete Sampras' regardless of whether or not he's injured. I'm confident Pete will come off the whole thing and be in top form."

Sampras has won four of the past five Grand Slam events. He has won eight titles, including the Australian Open and Wimbledon, and more than two million dollars in winnings.

"It's frustrating," Sampras said. "This is not the preparation I was hoping for, but I will have to make the best of it. I will not be without pain, but I will make an attempt."

Sampras, who won the 1992 Wimbledon crown with a strained shoulder tendon, remains the favorite, Chang said.

"Maybe he won't be playing his best tennis, but the scary thing about Pete right now is that he is still able to win even when he is not playing his best," Chang said. "He is still very dangerous."

Andre Agassi is unseeded here for the first time since 1987 while Jim Courier, the world number one before losing here to Sampras a year ago, has fallen to the 11th seed. Courier said he might skip the event, but a three-day rest rekindled his love for the game.

"Events like the Open are what I'm playing for, so I'm starting my second career after three days off," Courier said.



His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid (wearing cap) is surrounded by Bisharat Golf Club (Photo by Rana Hussein) winners of Friday's golf competition (first semi)

## Golf competition is held for charity

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Commonwealth Golf Team Friday was crowned winner of the annual Nations Cup Competition, topping eight other teams that participated in this charity event held in aid of Jordanian paraplegic sportsmen and sportswomen.

The 18-hole competition held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid, took place at the Bisharat Golf Club, the only club in Jordan, established in 1990.

The one-day event saw 36 players divided into nine four-man teams.

The four men who represented the Commonwealth Team were Bill Richardson, Terik Afridi, Derman

Keegan and Shishar Duta.

They totaled 190 points to capture the first place.

England came in second. Richard Lyons, Roger Sykes, Neil Bailey and Richard Lewis totalled 203 points.

The Jordanian team, represented by Hanafi Abu Hawa, Yousef Musalam, Salem Swiss and Adnan Tabaqaji placed third, at one point differences from the British team totalling 202 points.

The individuals longest drive was awarded to Nid Wards and the nearest hole award went to Mr. Duta.

"I am happy to see a big turnout," Prince Ra'ad said following the announcement of the final results.

"This year's competition is special because it is for charity," added the prince, addressing the players and a crowd of about 200 who

had come to witness the event.

The charity event raised JD 5,000 and was donated to the disabled in Jordan.

"The amount donated is not important as much as the spirit that everybody showed in coming here to help make this event successful," Prince Ra'ad said.

More than 16 companies, individuals and players donated money for the event, among them Marriott Hotel, British Airways, Lufthansa, Hertz Car Rental and the Forte Grand Hotel.

Roger Allen from the construction company Higgs and Hill, and Mr. Bailey from the British embassy, organised this year's event. They told the Jordan Times that "our first aim is to raise money for the handicapped in Jordan."

## Al Ahli, Al Jazireh vie for U-18 basketball title

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli face Al Jazireh in the final match of the under-18 basketball competition Saturday hoping to score a victory and grab another of the season's basketball titles.

In another match, Al Orthodoxy face Al Abbasi as they seek an advanced position in the eight team competition organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

However, titleholders Al Ahli seem very close to retaining their title after a victory over Al Jazireh Thursday.

Al Jazireh had won their first round encounter 69-46 and were leading 49-42 when electricity went out at the Sports Palace Wednesday, prompting JBF officials to repeat the match.

In Thursday's match, Al Jazireh had won the first half 30-25 and were leading 32-24 before they stopped scoring halfway through the second half and Al Orthodoxy took the lead 47-46 and went on to score a crucial win in the final three minutes.

Al Ahli now lead the standings with four points. Their 74-60 win over Al Orthodoxy means that Al Jazireh have a very hard

task as they will now have to win by 17 points in order to win the title.

Al Abbasi seem destined to finish fourth after losing 71-63 (40-29) to Jazireh, and 77-50 (42-26) to Al Ahli.

A second division club, Al Abbasi are the newest face in top level competition and are already one of the most active of the JBF's members as they are participating in most age-group competitions.

However, Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxy and Al Jazireh still dominate the game and are the top contenders for the season's basketball titles.

Al Jazireh clinched their first trophy of the season when they overcame Al Ahli to win the U-22 championship and recently secured the U-14 title. Meanwhile, Al Orthodoxy won the U-16 competition and regained the women's title after titleholders Al Jazireh abruptly pulled out of the championship last month invoking technical irregularities and an offhand approach by the JBF.

Al Jazireh, sponsored by Aramex, are a growing powerhouse in Jordanian basketball.

In addition to the women's title last year they also clinched the youth's under-14 and under-16 titles, while their men's team finished third in the first division, and second in the under-19 competition.

Al Orthodoxy, who dominated the Kingdom's basketball scene throughout the eighties, are now aiming to regain their former glory which they handed to Al Ahli by losing the country's most prestigious basketball title — the first division championship.

Al Ahli ended their reign in 1990 and went on to win the title in 1992 and 1993. However, Al Orthodoxy's new, younger lineup of players are already giving other teams a hard time, proving that their club is still a powerhouse to be reckoned with.

### STANDINGS BEFORE TODAY'S MATCHES

	P	W	L	SF	SA	PTS
Al Ahli	2	2	—	151	110	4
Al Jazireh	2	1	1	125	119	3
Al Orthodoxy	2	1	1	116	128	3
Al Abbasi	2	—	2	113	148	2

## Chirac has to foot Olympic bill

PARIS (AFP) — Paris mayor Jacques Chirac will have to stand and smile in the Bercy sports hall next Monday when President Francois Mitterrand opens the Centennial Olympic Congress.

Chirac is livid that his city council will have to stump up an extra 10 million francs (\$1,900,000) for the five-day talk-shop, sources close to the organisers say.

The original budget of 60 million francs (\$11.5 million) has been split three ways, between Paris, the French state and the International Olympic Committee.

But both Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, who Chirac fears might turn into a rival at next year's presidential elections, and IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch refused to pay any extra.

Chirac publicly chided Samaranch at a reception linked to the centenary celebrations, telling him he thought the IOC should cut down on expenses and spend more on developing countries, notably in Africa.

But instead of telling Spanish tenor Placido Domingo, film composer Michel Legrand or the Oxford and Cam-

bridge University boat crews they need not turn up, Chirac bit his lip and paid up.

No wonder Tokyo turned down the offer of putting the show on. Paris was volunteered by ex-French National Olympic Committee president Nelson Pailhou who expected to be repaid by being made an IOC member.

Instead, Samaranch has decided to prolong Maurice Herzog's tenure, after reaching retirement age, by making him a vice-president, succeeding Australian Kevin Gosper who stands down after four years.

The IOC, which has \$80 million earning interest in a Swiss bank for the proverbial rainy day, has restricted itself to one gala evening — at the Bagatelle Gardens in the Versailles palace where Louis XIV's mistress Madame de Pompadour took her afternoon nap.

Two thousands people from all the sports in the Olympics will ask just where the movement is going.

The biggest changes since the last congress at Baden Baden in Germany in 1981 are the return to the sporting fold of South Africa after the republic's first all-race elec-

tions and the collapse of the Communist sporting regimes. Samaranch likes to think his fostering of the anti-apartheid campaigners helped tear down the apartheid barriers.

The 72-year-old Spaniard will have been IOC president 17 years when his final term of office runs out in 1997. Samaranch says the \$80 million treasure chest is necessary to safeguard the movement if the television companies decide one day to drop the games from their programmes.

But although he may have secured the financial future of the Olympics his critics say he has let other power-hungry sports barons turn sport into a professional circus.

So far everything points to more sell-out crowds. The representatives of nine cities, from as far afield as Salt Lake City to the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, want to hold the 2002 Winter Games.

They will meet the IOC executive committee on Saturday and then get down to winning and dining the 88 members who will vote on the site in Budapest next June.

## Sports leaders to draw up 21st century blueprint

PAIRS (R) — World sports leaders meet to draw up a blueprint for the Olympic Games of the 21st century as they tackle the thorny issues of programme changes, doping and major International Olympic Committee (IOC) reform at the first Olympic Congress to be held in 13 years.

The week-long congress, to be opened on Monday by French President Francois Mitterrand, will also celebrate the centenary of the modern Olympic movement founded in Paris by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, whose 14-year tenure of office has already wrought radical reforms which would leave de Coubertin barely able to recognise the present-day Olympics, as an idea he spawned, is set to keep his foot on the accelerator for further change.

The congress, which groups not just IOC members but also international sports federations and national Olympic committees from around the world, is likely to see a heated debate on which sports should be included in the programme from the 2000 Sydney Summer Games onwards.

Samaranch has indicated he expects triathlon and taekwondo to take their places as medal sports, but there may be support for other innovations, including a controversial one in golf, seen by some as an elitist pastime with no place in the games.

The real controversy, though, may be over which sports face the axe to make way for the newcomers. Boxing, once under serious threat, looks set to survive but modern pentathlon and synchronised swimming enthusiasts can anticipate a nervous week.

The IOC has loudly proclaimed its leadership in the fight against drug cheats but, amid signs that victory is far away and may even be receding, there could well be calls for a rethink in the approach to one of sport's greatest cancers.

Though the Olympic body has successfully persuaded international federations to carry out random tests and harmonise penalties on offenders, IOC plans to bring on an extra weapon in blood testing have run into technical snags.

The congress will look for fresh ideas to counter the argument, increasingly heard, that drug use is now so

ingrained in sport that the fight may as well be abandoned, as it was against professionalism and commercialism.

The biggest battle on Samaranch's hands, however, is likely to come should he decide to bite the bullet of reforming the structures of the IOC and widening its membership.

Stung by criticism in Norway during the Lillehammer Winter Games in February that the IOC was undemocratic, Samaranch said reforms were likely at the congress, an idea guaranteed to make the traditionally conservative 90-strong membership wary.

Samaranch has made it known he would like to bring in international federation presidents and cut some of the present members to make the IOC a stronger body and the undisputed leader of

world sport.

There have also been suggestions that members should be elected for fixed terms rather than retain their seats until the age of 75 as under present rules.

Such radical moves would be fiercely resisted in some quarters and could undermine the unity of the Olympic movement which has been patiently welded by Samaranch's quiet diplomacy.

The Olympic movement comes to this congress more unified than at the last one in Baden-Baden in 1981 when we were between boycotts," an IOC source said.

"This congress will show whether the unity is real or whether it has been achieved by discouraging criticism, which could suddenly erupt here."

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مكتبة من الكتب



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## 'Ex-head of Syrian forces in prison'

BEIRUT (AFP) — The sacked head of Syria's elite special forces, General Ali Haidar, has been imprisoned for almost two weeks in Mazzeh prison, an Arabic newspaper said Thursday. The London-based Al Hayat, published in Beirut, quoted informed sources in Damascus for its report. The daily said Gen. Haidar was dismissed because of his "repeated refusal to carry out a military order" without giving more details. Informed sources in Nicosia said last week that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had sacked Gen. Haidar and replaced him with Gen. Ali Habib, who headed Syrian units in the U.S.-led international forces which ejected Iraq from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war. Gen. Haidar had been undergoing questioning since Aug. 3 under the supervision of the head of military intelligence Gen. Ali Duba, a close ally of the president, the sources said. Al Hayat, quoting the Syrian sources, said "this measure is a disciplinary punishment and has no political implications."

## Bhutto postpones Gaza visit

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto has indefinitely postponed a planned official visit next month to the autonomous Gaza Strip, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. The visit, which was to take place Sept. 4, has been put off because of "scheduling problems," and not because of rumours of obstacles put up by Israeli authorities to the visit, spokesman Munir Akran said. Ms. Bhutto, who will be in Cairo on Sept. 4 to participate in a U.N. conference on population and development, cannot meet Yasser Arafat on that date because the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief will be in Jericho for a visit by U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, he said. The Bhutto visit would have been the first by a head of a foreign government to the Gaza Strip since the installation of the Arafat-led autonomous Palestinian government there last May. Pakistan does not recognise Israel. Ms. Bhutto said Wednesday in Karachi that recognition of the Jewish state by Islamabad was "premature," and that such a move would not be possible until the status of Jerusalem was fully settled.

## Cairo to abide by ruling on school veils

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's education ministry will abide by a court ruling that blocked government attempts to curb Islamic influence in schools. A Cairo administrative court on Tuesday ordered the suspension of a ministerial decree prohibiting girls from wearing the Islamic veil to school without written permission from their parents. "The ruling is binding and it must be implemented," Education Minister Hussein Kamel Bahaeddin told the opposition Islamic paper Al Shaab on Friday. "If the law gives us the right to appeal, then we will appeal, we are studying the issue," he added in his first public response to the ruling. The court said the school uniform was a "general freedom" that the Egyptian constitution protects. It also said the minister went beyond his powers by issuing a decree that could only be passed by parliament. He issued the decree last May, after the school year ended, in an attempt to curb growing influence of Muslim extremist teachers. He said the law was to ensure that schoolgirls were not being forced to wear the Islamic dress code for women that covers everything except the face and hands. Many Egyptian schools have adopted the veil as part of the school uniform.

## 30 dead in fiery Turkey coach crash

ANKARA (AFP) — Some 30 people were killed and a further 22 injured overnight to a road crash in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Friday. A coach crashed into the back of an army troop carrier, veered off the road and burst into flames, the agency said. All of the dead were travelling on the coach. Four soldiers from the troop carrier were also injured, one seriously. The accident happened on the road to Silvan, 70 kilometres from the town of Diyarbakir. Turkish authorities blamed the accident on the coach driver, said Anatolia.

## France to expel Lebanese Muslim preacher

STRASBOURG (R) — A Lebanese Muslim preacher is to be expelled from France in the next few days, government officials said. The officials said the expulsion was not based on the religious beliefs of 41-year-old Mohammad Baroudi, who lives in Remiremont in northeast France, but to his lack of residence papers. France has expelled several Muslim preachers for suspected sympathies with Muslim fundamentalists. Mr. Baroudi lacked the necessary papers for legal residence when he arrived in France in 1993, according to local authorities. He requested a residence permit but was turned down earlier this year. He challenged that decision in court, but an administrative court upheld the local authorities in June. Mr. Baroudi appealed, but his plea was rejected on Wednesday, and officials said he would be expelled by Sunday.

## Israeli general who backed Palestinians dies

TEL AVIV (R) — Yehoshafat Harkabi, a former head of Israeli military intelligence who vexed hardliners by supporting a Palestinian state and withdrawal from occupied territories, died on Friday at the age of 73. Harkabi, who had been battling with cancer, died at Jerusalem's Hadasah hospital at 1.05 a.m., the hospital said. "His passing is a great loss to the nation," former Israeli President Chaim Herzog, who succeeded Harkabi as head of intelligence, told Israel Radio. In 1988, in the early months of the Palestinian uprising, Harkabi suggested Israel do the unthinkable — negotiate with then public enemy number one, Yasser Arafat, and his Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "Reality will force Israel to retreat from her political stand, to withdraw from the territories and to negotiate with the PLO," he said.

## Sudan wants envoys named to mediating group

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has called for a group mediating in the country's 11-year civil war to appoint representatives to the next round of peace talks in Kenya on Sept. 5 to 7 to replace the group's foreign ministers. The state-owned Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper on Friday quoted Dr. Ali Al Haj Mohammad, spokesman for the government negotiators, as saying envoys should replace foreign ministers of member countries of the inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) presiding over the talks. Dr. Mohammad, who is also the minister at the federal law chamber, said the responsibilities of the foreign ministers made it difficult for them to take part. He said the two days set for the talks were insufficient and called for an extension. Dr. Mohammad said on Thursday that a new mechanism had to be found to replace that used in previous rounds of talks. He said previous mechanisms for dialogue had failed to bring peace. Kenya heads IGADD, a regional group mediating in the civil war between Sudan's government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. IGADD was formed by Kenya, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

## Israel lifts blockade of Lebanon village

SIDON (AFP) — The Israeli army on Thursday lifted its month-long blockade of Yohmor village near its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. Lebanese military officials said. Soldiers filled in trenches they had dug around Yohmor, three kilometres from the edge of the zone, to open up the road to the village. Yohmor is situated below the Israeli army position of Beaufort Castle, which has come under repeated attack from guerrillas. Lebanon complained the U.N. Security Council about the blockade, saying it amounted to an Israeli extension of its 850-square-kilometres "security zone."

## Tourist killed in Assiut attack

ASSIUT (AFP) — Suspected militants shot dead a Spanish teenager and wounded three people including his father in an ambush on Friday which rocked Egypt's efforts to repair its image as a tourist destination.

Another Spaniard and the Egyptian tour guide were wounded when four gunmen fired on a mini-bus carrying 11 holidaymakers to ancient sites in southern Egypt, officials said.

Thirteen-year-old Pablo Usan was the first tourist to be killed by militants since a German woman was shot and fatally wounded on board a Nile cruise boat on March 4.

His father Leopoldo, 46, was critically wounded in the chest and flown to Cairo by helicopter for treatment at a military hospital accompanied by his 35-year-old wife and the body of their son.

The killing came just two weeks before the U.N. World Population Conference in Cairo which has been bitterly criticised by militants but which the authorities hope will help revive tourism (see page 2).

The group of 11 Spanish tourists had taken a Nile cruise and disembarked at the ancient temple site of Dendera, near the southern town of Qena.

They were being taken by bus to visit more ruins in the town of Sohag when they were ambushed near Naga Hamady, almost 600 kilometres from Cairo.

The gunmen, described as "wanted terrorists" by the Interior Ministry, fled into surrounding sugar-cane fields.

One of the Spaniards, Julio Ponce, 40, had a bullet removed from his foot and was recovering in Luxor, a Spanish diplomat said.

The group's Egyptian tour guide Iman Nouredin, 24, was also shot in the foot and her condition was unknown. More than 400 people have died since militants launched a violent campaign in March 1992 to topple President Hosni Mubarak's government and replace it with a strict Islamic regime.

The militants have struck at the money-spinning tourist industry and have now killed nine tourists, scaring away foreign holidaymakers.

Tourism Minister Mamduh Al Beltagy has said the number of visitors was down 45 per cent last year, and the security forces have carried out a massive operation to crush the militants.



PRESS CONFERENCE: Said Magri, a suspected Algerian militant interned by French authorities, gives a press conference on Friday from his hospital bed in Chauny, northern France. Mr. Magri, 28, who is on a hunger-strike, maintaining he is innocent and is threatening to commit suicide unless he is released (AFP photo)

## Algerian armed group forms 'alternative' cabinet

PARIS (Agencies) — The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most hardline of the underground fundamentalist movements in Algeria, Friday announced the setting up of an alternative government.

In a statement to AFP the group, which has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks, said its leader Cherif Gousmi, also known as Abou Abdallah Ahmad, would head the cabinet government, the name given to the Islamic administration.

A cabinet of 11 ministers listed a portfolio for Ali Belhadj, the number two from the rival extremist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) group, who is currently in detention.

The post of premier is to be held by Mohammad Said, a former FIS official who went over to the GIA last month.

The FIS was slated to win general elections which were annulled by the army in January 1992.

The interior ministry portfolio is to be held by Said Mekhoufi, a former army officer who has gone over to the FIS, while the post of foreign minister will go to Anwar Haddam, former head of the exiled FIS parliamentary delegation, the GIA statement said. Both men recently defected to the GIA.

The statement also said there would be no truce with the Algerian government and warned individual Algerians against seeking to negotiate with the authorities.

The FIS meanwhile indirectly rejected President Liamine Zeroual's call for talks to help end civil strife by demanding on Friday that he quit.

The FIS leadership in exile said Mr. Zeroual, who asked legal opposition parties this week to talk to the outlawed movement to try to put a stop to political violence, was in the pocket of the military and must resign.

"We ask Mr. Zeroual to resign so that he will not be used as a shield by the military junta and its terror," the FIS leadership said in a statement received in Paris. The statement also quoted excerpts of a letter from jailed FIS deputy leader Belhadj to Mr. Zeroual asking him to dissociate himself from the military and quit.

"The best for you is to resign and proclaim that you are innocent regarding this junta... otherwise their trial will be yours," Mr. Belhadj said.

It was not clear whether the letter was the same as one in which Mr. Belhadj last month asked Mr. Zeroual to quit immediately.

Mr. Zeroual resumed talks with legal opposition parties

last week and asked them to contact jailed FIS leaders to seek their help in ending the political violence.

He had invited eight parties to the talks but three strongly anti-Islamist parties, including the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), one of Algeria's main parties, rejected the invitation.

The talks follow a series started by Mr. Zeroual's predecessors in late 1992, all of which failed to resolve the conflict in the country, mainly between security forces and Muslim militants trying to overthrow the army-backed government.

More than 4,000 people have been killed and attacks on foreigners have sent thousands, notably from the former colonial power France, fleeing back to their own countries, in civil unrest following the government's cancellation of 1992 elections the FIS was poised to win. Mr. Zeroual and delegations from the five opposition parties will meet for another round of talks on Sept. 5, officials have announced.

Mr. Zeroual's spokesman M'houb M'houb said party representatives and political figures had been encouraged during Wednesday's second meeting to pursue their dialogue with the (FIS) to explain the scope of the multi-party talks.

## Gunshots fired at U.S. consul's residence

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An American diplomat's house in the Abdoun area was the target of gunshots by unidentified assailants last week, but no one was injured in the incident, sources at the American embassy said Friday.

The incident, which took place at 2.00 a.m. August 20, targeted the house of U.S. Consul Raymond Clore, a U.S. embassy spokesman told the Jordan Times.

"Three bullets were fired at his house, shattering a few windows, but none of the house residents were hurt in the attack," the spokesman said.

The spokesman added that the authorities were searching for the unidentified assailant(s), and that there were no suspects yet.

Security authorities contacted by the Jordan Times Friday said they had no information about the incident.

Residents in the area said they had heard the shots, which appeared to have come from a machine-gun. No details were available Friday on the nature of the weapon used in the attack.

It was one of the rare incidents of an attack on diplomats in Jordan.

In 1991, a group called "Jeish Mohammad," was accused of plotting attacks against foreign diplomats. Eighteen suspects were tried and sentenced to varying terms in prison.

## Technical failure ruled out in Morocco crash amid suicide theories

PARIS (Agencies) — The head of an inquiry into the ATR-42 Royal Air Maroc accident which killed 44 people rebuffed Friday the theory that the crash had been caused by technical failure.

Mohammad Moufid, speaking on the Europe 1 radio station, was responding to those disputing the inquiry's findings which said the pilot put the plane into a nosedive because he wanted to end his life.

On Thursday the Moroccan pilots' union disputed the findings of the inquiry, saying there was evidence of technical failure in the crash last Sunday near Agadir in southern Morocco.

On Friday the head of the Royal Air Maroc staff association, Mustapha Quakim, also expressed doubt about the suicide theory, saying the plane's left wing had landed nearly five kilometres from the main crash site.

Mr. Moufid replied there was "a logical and objective explanation" for this, but declined to elaborate further.

Early Friday, however, the manufacturer of the aircraft, based in Toulouse, told AFP that "all the debris of the plane was found within 450 metres of the crash."

Mr. Quakim said the Moroccan pilot of the plane was about to get married and promoted.

"These are things that would generally make someone feel life was rosy," Mr. Quakim told French radio, casting doubt on the suicide

explanation.

Younes Khyati's colleagues at Royal Air Maroc, notably those who saw him on the day of his fatal flight, found the suicide idea hard to swallow, although they acknowledged it could not be ruled out.

But Mr. Quakim repeated calls made by the national aircrew union on Thursday for more explanation of some of the technical aspects of the crash.

Mr. Khyati had announced his engagement, Mr. Quakim said, and had been told he would switch from flying the turboprop planes of the sort he died in to Boeing 737 jets, which meant a promotion.

Witnesses on the day of the crash said Khyati showed no signs of mental or physical weakness, Quakim said.

He even left a message on a telephone answering machine arranging to meet a colleague that evening.

"I can describe him as someone who was very friendly, who did not have any problems with his colleagues," Mr. Quakim said.

The Moroccan transport

ministry said preliminary study of two flight recorders in a Paris laboratory showed the crash was due to "the pilot's wish to put an end to his life."

"To do this he switched off the automatic pilot and directed the aircraft at the ground," said a ministry statement.

Khyati was experienced, with 4,500 flying hours. He had undergone annual medical checks, and was tested for professional competence four weeks ago.

The plane was 10 minutes into a flight from Agadir to Casablanca when it suddenly lost altitude from 4,600 metres and crashed into the Atlas Mountains.

The ministry said a commission investigating the disaster was trying to determine the motives for the pilot's "incomprehensible gesture."

It added there were no anomalies in the plane, made by Franco-Italian group Avions de Transport Regional (ATR), a joint venture between French state-owned Aerospatiale and Alenia Spa.

## Iraqis petition Israel for asylum

TEL AVIV (R) — A group of Iraqi citizens who entered Israel illegally has petitioned Israel's supreme court for political asylum in the Jewish state, an attorney for the petitioners said. The 23 Iraqis were detained by Israeli authorities upon their entry into Israel through Jordan at various times over the last two years. They said in their petition they had fled Iraq because they opposed President Saddam Hussein. Israel and Iraq, with no common border, are officially in a state of war.

## Bosnian refugee flood seen headed for clash

TURAN (AP) — Masses of Bosnian refugees streamed Friday towards an area that separates Serb-held Croatia from the rest of the republic. U.N. officials feared they would clash with Croatian forces determined to keep the refugees out.

Alenka Lisinski, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said 25,000 refugees from Bosnia's northwestern corner were heading toward the Turan crossing.

About 7,000 already were camped out near there, in a no-man's land separating Croatia's rebel Serbs from regular Croatian troops. With the Croats positioning water cannons and armoured vehicles at the transit point to prevent any breakthrough, the chances for messy confrontation were growing.

"At the moment, they say they won't let them in," Ms. Lisinski said of the Croats. U.N. officials and peacekeepers at the checkpoint donned flak jackets as they braced for potential violence, and U.N. police conceded that they had no control over the area.

Ms. Lisinski said a line of up to 14,000 refugees stretched from the Bosnian-Croatian border 40 kilometres northwards to the separation zone between Croat-held and Serb-held Croatia.

They were on the run from Velika Kladusa in neighbouring Bosnia, where forces loyal to Muslim rebel leader Fikret Abdic were routed by the Bosnian government army last weekend.

The Bosnian government has pledged there will be no reprisals if the refugees are returned. But the refugees con-

tinued to believe strident Abdic propaganda warning of retaliation if they go home.

Velika Kladusa is at the northern tip of a Muslim enclave known as the Bihać pocket in northwestern Bosnia. Mr. Abdic, a wealthy local businessman, declared independence from the Muslim-led Sarajevo government last fall and made his own peace with Serbs who surround the enclave.

It is unclear why Mr. Abdic, whose whereabouts is not known, continues to warn refugees not to return home. U.N. officials and journalists who have visited Velika Kladusa say the town is safe. Civilians there say they have not been mistreated.

There is speculation that Mr. Abdic might be trying to regroup his forces with the backing of Serbs.

Refugees in the no man's land were sleeping under trucks and buses, or building tents of wood and plastic sheeting. Others sought shelter from persistent rain in bombed out buildings abandoned after Croatia's 1991 war with rebel Serbs.

The U.S. ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, visited the area Thursday to attempt to persuade the refugees to return home. But virtually all appeared determined to seek refuge in Croatia.

Croatia, already burdened with 400,000 refugees from Bosnia and those displaced in its own war of secession from Yugoslavia, said it cannot accept them.

In Bosnia, Serb leaders who control 70 per cent of the republic made final preparations for a referendum they say will decide the fate of an international peace plan.

## COLUMN

## Delta bans smoking on long flights

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Delta Air Lines announced Thursday a smoking ban on its transatlantic, European and Mexico flights, becoming the first U.S. airline to completely prohibit smoking on its transatlantic flights. The smoking ban will come into effect on Jan. 1, 1995, the company said in a statement. Delta said the decision was in response to popular demand. Surveys of some 22,000 passengers on international flights showed that an overwhelming number of travellers wanted "to make their flying experience smoke free," the company said.

## White House no longer amused by comic strip

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton is a favourite target of political cartoonists, often depicted with an elongated chin and a vacant stare, but as a waffle? Of all the caricatures of Clinton, Garry Trudeau may have come up with the one that slashes the deepest. In his Doonesbury strip this week, the well-known American cartoonist has been depicting Mr. Clinton as a floating waffle. To a White House already hypersensitive to criticism, the depiction must have seemed like the cruellest cut of all, coming from the pen of Trudeau — whom many White House insiders had viewed as, if not a supporter, at least sympathetic. After all, George Bush was the one who bore a long grudge against Trudeau for depicting him as invisible.

And former Vice President Dan Quayle was drawn by the cartoonist as a drifting feather. Mr. Clinton made Trudeau one of his early White House dinner guests. It seems unlikely he'll be invited back. The Clinton waffle appears at a time when White House aides are trying to depict Mr. Clinton as decisive and engaged, pouring his energies into crime and health care legislation before a fractious Congress. In Monday's Doonesbury, three quotes emanate from the levitating waffle that are utterances. Cartoonists have not been kind of Mr. Clinton in recent months. Syndicated political cartoonist Pat Oliphant showed Mr. Clinton recently in his underwear, an upside down pot on his head, trying to fend off a giant armoured knight marked "senate" with a table knife and a garbage can cover. As Mr. Clinton's approval ratings go down in polls, his chin appears to get longer and larger in cartoons. His hair gets more disheveled. He gains more weight.

Security authorities contacted by the Jordan Times Friday said they had no information about the incident.

Residents in the area said they had heard the shots, which appeared to have come from a machine-gun. No details were available Friday on the nature of the weapon used in the attack.

It was one of the rare incidents of an attack on diplomats in Jordan.

In 1991, a group called "Jeish Mohammad," was accused of plotting attacks against foreign diplomats. Eighteen suspects were tried and sentenced to varying terms in prison.

## Seoul swoops on foreign language teachers

SEOUL (AFP) — Seoul police have arrested 19 foreigners in a swoop on the city's burgeoning private language training schools and charged them with teaching without the approved qualifications, newspapers said here Friday. Seven Americans, six Chinese, three Australians, two Canadians and an Englishman were arrested in the swoop Thursday, and the heads of 10 private foreign language schools charged with using unqualified teachers. Four of the Americans were identified by police as members of families of U.S. servicemen based here, and one of the school's raided, a branch of one of the country's largest and most prestigious, the ELS Foreign Language School. Teachers of English and Chinese are in high demand in South Korea and easily command salaries of between three thousand and five thousand U.S. dollar a month, but Yonhap news agency quoted police as saying those picked up had been earning less than the schools normally paid. Sources in the profession say the paperwork demanded by the government for a teacher's visa takes at least two months, and must be completed outside the country. Rush demands from government departments and the heavy private teaching load often leads to the hiring of temporary teachers, they said. In addition, if teachers are asked to give classes outside the school to which they are accredited, they are theory breaking the law, the sources said.